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# THE Country Gentleman AND FARMER's MONTHLY DIRECTOR.

CONTAINING

Neceſſary Inſtructions for the Management and Improvement of a FARM, in every Month of the Year.

Wherein is directed the Times and Seaſons proper for PLOUGHING and SOWING of all ſorts of Corn or Grain; the Planting and Managing of Hops, Liquorice, Madder, Saffron, and ſuch other Crops as ſtand more than one Year on the Ground.

The Times of PLANTING and CUTTING of Coppice or Springs of Wood, and Felling of Timber; the Breeding and Feeding of POULTRY, RABBITS, FISH, SWINE, and all ſorts of CATTLE.

With ſeveral Particulars relating to the Improvement of BEES, never before made publick.

*By* R. BRADLEY,

*Profeſſor of Botany in the Univerſity of* Cambridge, *and F. R. S.*

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TO

*Aaron Harrington* Esq;

SIR,

YOUR favourable Opinion of my former Writings, relating to the Improvement of Land, induces me to present you with the following Piece; which I have calculated, as well for the Use of those Gentlemen, who delight themselves in the Innocent and Profitable Diversions of a Country Life, as for the Benefit of the Farmer.

And I am more especially prompted to lay this Work before you, as it is apparent by all your Actions, that the Interest and Advantage of your Country is your principal Study; and your Virtues and Knowledge lead you to encourage any Design, which may contribute to the Good of the Publick. To this, Sir, I may add the Satisfaction I have, of declaring in this publick manner, that I am, with the greatest Respect,

SIR,

Your most Obliged

Humble Servant,

R. BRADLEY.

TO THE

# Country Gentlemen,

AND

# FARMERS,

## Introductory Diſcourſe.

*BEFORE I enter upon the Monthly Directions contain'd in the following Sheets, it will be neceſſary that I lay before my Reader my Thoughts concerning the Qualifications of a Farmer, and the Uſe of a Farm.*

*I conſider a Farmer as a Perſon whoſe Buſineſs depends more upon the Labour of the Brain, than of the Hands; that is, his Contrivance and Wariness*

*will prove much more beneficial to him, than the working Part. This is evidenced by Inſtances to be met with every where. We find ſome Farmers riſe early, and go to bed late, and make themſelves Slaves for ſixteen Hours in the four-and-twenty; and yet, for want of Obſervation, and a right Judgment of the Particulars under their Care, can hardly make both Ends meet when the Year comes about, tho' they have ſpared both the Back and the Belly: while, on the other hand, their next Neighbours perhaps have not taken a quarter part of the Pains that they did, but have moved with Diſcretion and good Judgment, and ſaved to themſelves good Fortunes, and yet have lived hoſpitably. 'Tis not hard Labour alone will fill the Sack; but, in the Buſineſs of Husbandry, there muſt be Experience and Judgment, as well as Induſtry: for, conſider the vaſt Variety the Farmer has before him; there is the Improvement of Land by Corn, by Pulſe, by Turnips, and ſuch like Roots; by Hops, by Liquorice, Madder, Oziers, Plantations, Fruits, Woad, Weld, Carraway, and many others of the like ſort: and then by Cattle, as Kine, Sheep, Swine, Rabbits, &c. and Poultry, Pidgeons, Turkeys, Geeſe, Ducks, Phea-*

*Pheaſants*, &c. *and Fiſh, ſuch as Carp, Tench, Pike, Pearch*, &c. *and by Bees. All which he ought to have a good Knowledge of; for every one of theſe rightly managed, will bring a profitable Return: And if all together are order'd by a skilful Farmer, who knows how to breed and feed, as well as plough, ſow, and plant, his Farm will be rich. And beſides the Money he will get by his Store, he will always have an Opportunity of living in as plentiful a manner, as any Gentleman in* England.

*A Farmer therefore ought to be a Philoſopher, to ſtudy the Nature of every Soil, and to know how to improve one ſort by another; for by ſuch Mixtures, which are natural, Land of every kind is greatly mended, and will bring Crops in greater Health and Strength, than if the Land was to be helped with Dung; which, if it is not well rotted, and become like Earth itſelf, will be apt to breed Inſects, and the Canker. All heavy ſtiff Soils muſt be mended by light Soils: as Clays, by Sands, or Coal-Aſhes, and ſuch things as become light and open in their Parts. And, on the contrary, the light ſandy Soils may be ſtrengthen'd by Clay, or other ſtiff Soils, by which means thoſe Lands which are too looſe in their Parts, and have their Moiſture*

*Moiſture too quickly exhaled, may be brought to ſuch a Temper, as to retain Moiſture for a good Seaſon: And the Soils which were ſtiff and binding, and not capable of diſtributing freely their Nouriſhment, will now be at liberty to act freely upon Plants. Nor is this all, for the Depth of the Soil ſhould be examin'd into, for ſome Plants require a great depth of Soil; as Liquorice, Carrots, Parſnips, and ſuch like, whoſe Roots muſt run deep to bring profitable Crops, while others will thrive well upon ſhallow Soils. And then again, we ſhould have regard to the Situation of the Grounds; for ſome ſorts of Plants delight in warm Places, others in Shade, ſome in moiſt Ground, others in dry Ground, ſome on Hills, others in low Grounds. And after all this, it muſt be obſerv'd, that every Plant requires a free Air to grow in Strength; for Experience teaches us, that where this is wanting, no Plant will proſper. A Farmer therefore ſhould take great care in ſowing and putting his Crops into the Ground, that he does not ſow or plant too thick; but conſider when he is about ſuch Works, what Space each Plant will fill when it comes to its full Growth, and allow a due diſtance for every one. When this Care or Judg-*

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*ment is wanting in the ſowing of Corn, or Turnips, or ſetting of Beans, &c. we as ſurely find, that our Corn is weak and thin in the Ear; and our Turnips, unleſs they are ſet at due Diſtances with an Hough, will not thrive in their Roots: And the Beans which are planted too thick, will ſhoot only into barren Stalks. So in the fencing or incloſing of Land, it is neceſſary to make our Fields of a large ſize, if we deſign to plant any Timber in the Hedge-rows; for elſe, when the Timber grows up, it would ſtifle the Air: and whatever Plants were to grow in a ſmall Field thus fenced, would grow tall and weak, and have their Juices undigeſted. 'Tis therefore adviſeable to thin the tall Trees in the Fences of ſmall Fields, to let in the Air and Sun, for the Welfare of ſuch Plants as grow in it; for even common Graſs will ſuffer in a Field too thickly encloſed. Theſe things being underſtood, it is in the next place neceſſary for a Farmer to be careful in deſtroying of Weeds; for if they once get a head, which they will ſoon do, if we let them ſtand till the Seed is ripe, it will be difficult to root them out of the Ground; but if we pull or cut them up when they firſt appear, they may be eaſily conquer'd, and eſpecially*

*cially thoſe which bear feather'd or winged Seed ſhould be early taken care of, for if they happen to be only in Flower, when we pull or cut them up, the Seeds will ripen, altho' the Plants are quite void of Earth, and the leaſt Wind will blow them over a whole Country. Of theſe Sorts are the Thiſtles, Hawkweeds, Dandelion, Grounſel,* &c. *but ſome Weeds take deep Roots in the Earth, and if you cut them up, they will ſoon ſpring again; ſuch is the Bindweed, Mallow, Dandelion, and ſome others: and in ſuch a Caſe we muſt hough them often in the time of their growth, which I find to be the beſt way of deſtroying them. But if it happens that our Ground is over-run chiefly with Mallows, they may be deſtroy'd by pouring Brine of Beef or Pork on them: this was experienced by Mr.* Trowell, *of the* Temple, *a curious Gentleman, whom I have often had occaſion to mention for his skill in theſe Affairs; and what I chiefly admired in this Diſcovery was, that the Graſs in the ſame Field where he kill'd the Mallows, was not at all diſturb'd by the Brine, but ſeem'd to proſper the better for it. So that what is deſtructive to one Plant, is helpful to another; and is one Inſtance, that every different ſort of Plant draws a diffe-*

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*rent ſort of nouriſhment from the Earth. But there are many others mention'd in my Works, which are enough to ſatisfy both the Farmer and Gardener of the Neceſſity of changing Crops to keep Ground in heart; and this I eſteem one of the greateſt Secrets in Husbandry, and ought to be carefully conſidered by the Farmer: for, by frequent change of Crops, the Ground, if it be naturally ſtiff, will be render'd more open in its Parts by often Ploughing, and ſo become better prepared for Vegetation; but letting ſuch Sort of Land lie fallow for a Year, makes it bind, and at the plowing Seaſon riſe in great Clods. But the common Way with ſome Farmers is to fallow, twy-fallow, and try-fallow, as they call it, in the ſpace of one Year, ſo that then the Ground is three times plow'd in a Year, which opens its Parts and makes it fine, without doubt: but I ſee no reaſon why Ground ſhould lie idle, when it is certain that two Crops might be gather'd from it in that time, and the Ground would not be the worſe for it, if they were ſo diſcreetly choſen, that one was of a very different kind from another, the Ground would certainly be the better for it. For I find by experience, that if ſuch Crops are ſown, as are full of fibrous Roots, ſuch Roots greatly help to open*

*open the Parts of Grounds inclining to too much ſtiffneſs; and if ſuch Crops as carry a fat Moiſture in them happen to be ſown upon light ſandy Grounds, the plowing into ſuch Land the Offals of ſuch Crops help to make that Land fertile; and there is no other Soil in the World but the ſtiff and the light, nor any other Plants grow upon either, but ſuch as have fibrous Roots to open the ſtiff Soil, or Leaves or Roots of ſuch ſubſtance as will help to bind the light or looſe ſoil. So that theſe Extremes are eaſily brought to a medium, and the two Crops which are generally cultivated in a Year, are commonly of both the Sorts I mention; ſuch as Peaſe and Turnips, or Barley and Turnips, for the two laſt will do as well as the firſt.*

*Another thing which a Farmer ought to conſider, is the draining of his wet Lands, and the watering of his dry Lands, for theſe are two very neceſſary Things in Farming; for too much wet is hurtful to Ground for many Things, and Graſs-grounds ought to have the benefit of Water ſometimes to mend them. The command of Water is beneficial; if it is too much, carry it off by Drains, if there is any Fall in the Ground; and if there is too little, make Reſervoirs for it in the upper Lands, if you have any,*

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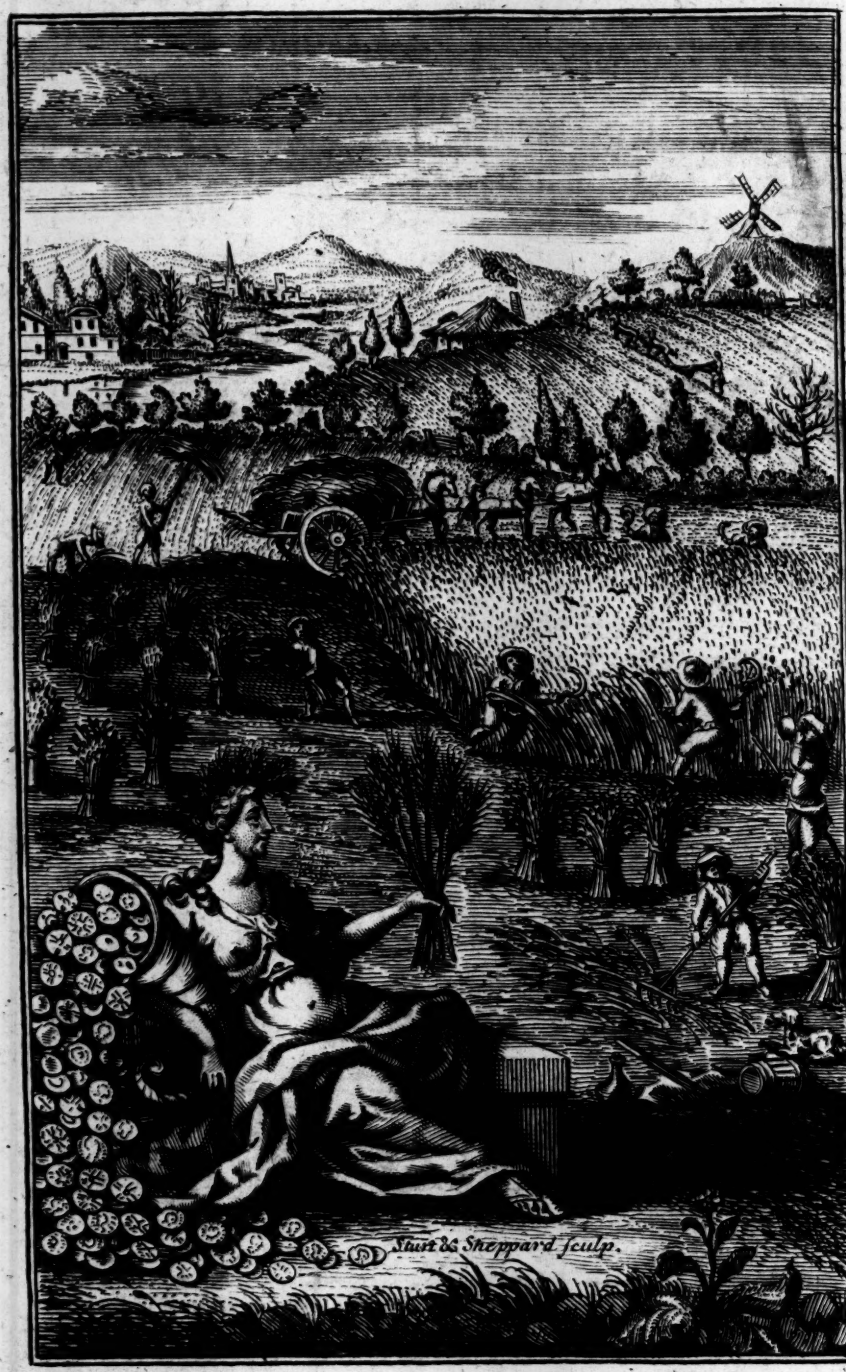
Stuart & Sheppard sculp.

*to diſpenſe it at pleaſure on the lower Grounds: but if there is no Fall, or Opportunity of carrying off the Water from ſuch Land, then appoint ſuch Plants for it as love Water or Moiſture; and, on the other hand, chuſe ſuch Plants as are proper for your upper dry Lands, provided they are ſuch as will not hold Water.*

*In the next place it is neceſſary for a Farmer, above all Men, to learn to judge of what Weather will happen, that he may the better gueſs at the proper Times for cutting his Hay, or reaping his Corn; therefore the beſt Advice I can give, is to recommend to him the Uſe of thoſe Inſtruments which will give him notice of aproaching wet or dry Weather, ſuch as the Barometer, Hygrometer,* &c. *which are prepared by Mr.* Fowler, *Mathematical Inſtrument-maker, in* Swithin's-Alley, *near the* Royal-Exchange, *with the greateſt exactneſs: a little Uſe of theſe Inſtruments will give a Farmer ſo much fore-knowledge of the Weather, as may ſave him many a Crop, and ſave him Money and Trouble into the bargain. In the cropping or ſtocking of a Farm, there ſhould always be a Regard to the Markets; that is, whether fed Cattle, or milch'd Kine, or Corn, or what other thing will be receiv'd beſt*

*at*

*at the Markets neareſt at hand; and to cultivate ſuch only as will be the leaſt expenſive in Carriage; for if we were to cultivate any thing of good Value in itſelf, and there was not a Market for it, we might account it a dead Commodity, and our Expence and Labour would be thrown away: but when a Farmer has conſider'd well what his Land will produce, and what the Markets will take off, then he may expect the reward due to his Labour and Induſtry. Such a Man is worthy to be a Farmer, and his Philoſophy and Policy may put him upon the ſame footing with one of the greateſt among the antient Philoſophers, who became one of the richeſt Men in his Time, by knowing what Commodities were the moſt in eſteem, and by ſupplying himſelf with ſuch as would bring him the moſt advantage. But beſides this, a diſcreet Farmer may, by Obſervation, be capable of judging a long Time beforehand, whether there will be a plenty or ſcarcity of Fruits, and accordingly may buy in, or ſell out, as he finds it will be for his advantage.*

*Some Farmers who are dealers in Orchard Fruits, make very good advantage by buying Orchards, even before the Buds begin to open; for they may then as well judge what Bloom there will be, as if they*

*they were to see the Blossoms open; so much difference is there between the Fruit-Buds and the Leaf-Buds. But there is one thing more which may be observ'd in the stocking of a Farm, and that is with regard to Cattle and Poultry; for we may have too many or too few of them. If we have too many, they starve one another; and if we have too few, we are losers. Again we are to remark, that on a grazing Farm Poultry is no way profitable, for then you must buy Meat for them; but the Farms, which consist chiefly of Arable Land, feed Fowls with little Expence: they will live upon the Offals of the Barn-Door, which without them would be lost. But as for Water-Fowls, such as Ducks and Geese, if you have Water for them, they will find Food enough. So where there is a large Dairy, a Farmer ought to keep a large Herd of Swine, and more especially if he has the Benefit of Woods, which afford Mast and Acorns; but an arable Farm must never be without them: but when to buy them in for fatting, or sell them off, depends upon the Skill of the Farmer.*

*Fish-Ponds are also very advantageous, if they lie near good Markets, and that they are carefully managed, as I have directed in the following Sheets:*

*But theſe I don't make neceſſary for a Farmer, unleſs where an Eſtate is full of Springs; and in ſuch a caſe, Ponds will help to drain the Land, and ſerve as Reſervoirs to water the Graſs-Grounds upon occaſion; and where ſuch Reſervoirs are, it is adviſable to have Fiſh: but we muſt not over-ſtock them, if we expect them to thrive well.*

*As for what I mention now and then in the following Papers, concerning the breeding of Pheaſants, Partridges, Hares, and Rabbits, I intended theſe Memorandums chiefly for Country Gentlemen, that they may want nothing about them that may contribute to the Pleaſure and Profit of a Country Life. The Education of theſe things are neither expenſive, or any great trouble: And what I have mention'd beſides, which are the neceſſary Attendants of a Farm, together with what may be had from a good Garden, I doubt not will be ſufficient to ſave a large Family a conſiderable Expence, and afford them likewiſe a great deal of Satisfaction. The Rabbits eſpecially to be bred in the artificial Warren, which I treat of in the following Piece, will make a conſiderable Article of Profit, as well from the Fleſh of the Rabbits, as by their Skins: but as the Particulars there relate chiefly to the feed-*

*feeding part, I ſhall here offer a Word or two concerning the Situation and Structure of ſuch a Warren. The Situation ſhould be dry, and lie open to a free Air, and the Morning Sun, if poſſible. And as to the Structure of it, we will ſuppoſe a Rod or two of Ground to be employ'd for it, paved at the bottom with Bricks, or ſquare Tiles, and a Wall to encloſe it, about three Foot high, with Palliſades upon it. Againſt this Wall on the inſide, make Cells for the Rabbits about fourteen Inches wide, two Foot long, and about fourteen Inches high, to be cover'd with Doors to open upon Hinges, and to lock down at pleaſure; and over them a Covering of feather-edged Boards, to carry off the Wet, and to move upon Hinges. Every Cell muſt have an opening towards the Warren, for the Rabbits to run in and out at pleaſure. And of theſe there may be about thirty in a Warren of two Rods of Ground; but the Bucks muſt not have the liberty of running about, for they will deſtroy the young ones. The beſt way is to chain a couple of them in the Shed, or Feeding-place, which muſt be cover'd, to keep the Meat from the Wet. One of theſe well managed, will bring in a good return of Money, and be of great uſe to a Family; and the Rabbits*

*eat*

*eat as well as any wild Rabbits from the beſt natural Warren.*

*By way of Concluſion, I may obſerve, that the following Directions I have taken from Practice, and, I doubt not, will anſwer the End of the Farmer, and ſuch Gentlemen who take delight in a Country Life; and I am the more perſuaded, that they will prove ſatisfactory, having given my Reader in this Work many new Things, which I have but lately diſcover'd in my Buſineſs of Viewing and Improving Eſtates.*

*As to the Books lately compiled concerning Husbandry and Gardening, I can ſay but little to them; for as they are crouded with Particulars taken from Mr.* Evelin, *Mr.* Mortimer, *and my own Works, I cannot pay the Authors any Compliment, unleſs it is, that they are faithful Tranſcribers.*

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# THE Country Gentleman AND FARMER's MONTHLY DIRECTOR.

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## *JANUARY.*

THIS Month the Farmer has near as much to do about the Houſe, as he has in the Field; for if we have any ſevere Weather, it may be now expected, and beſides, the ſhortneſs of the Days will not admit of much Work to be done

done abroad: ſometimes indeed it happens that the Weather is open enough to uſe the Plough, but that is ſeldom in the firſt Fortnight. It is neceſſary now, if the Weather be unfit for ploughing, to look over all our Inſtruments belonging to Huſbandry, if that was not done in the former Month; but a good Husbandman will hardly leave this Buſineſs till this time: for as the greateſt Proſpect of good Summer Crops, which a Farmer can have, proceeds from a Watchfulneſs and a Readineſs to get the Seed or Roots early in the Ground; ſo if Inſtruments are not all ready for work, when the Weather begins to be mild, he may loſe the Benefit, which he propoſes from his Labour and Expences. For if the Spring happens to be dry, as it was about four Years ago, the Barley and Oats that are ſown late will hardly come up; for then, when we had about ten Weeks dry Weather, I obſerv'd ſeveral Fields in *Middleſex*, where Oats and Barley were ſown in *March*, that had not the leaſt appearance of any Corn upon them in the end of *May*, at which time Showers began to fall, and then ſeveral Farmers turn'd up freſh Land, and ſow'd Barley in *June*, which ripen'd very well that year; but 'tis hazardous, and therefore I ſay, ſow theſe Crops betimes, that we may have the benefit

nefit of the *February* or *March* Showers, to bring the Grain up, and eſpecially in thoſe Months the Earth is the moſt ſubject to make Seeds ſprout; and, as I obſerv'd before, in this Month, if the Ground is open, the Seeds or Grain ſown about the End will come up with great Strength.

Now is a proper time to cut Thorns for making of dry Hedges, for which Work the White-Thorn or Haw-Thorn is the beſt, if it can be had, or elſe Sallows or Willows will do; the White-Thorn about *London* will ſometimes ſell for a Guinea the Waggon-Load: ſo now likewiſe cut Stakes for Hedges, and plaſh your Fences, and lay down Boughs and Branches to fill the Vacancies, flinging a few Spits of Earth on the top of the Banks, ſo as to cover the bottoms of the plaſhed Branches, which will occaſion ſome of them to take root, and ſo will ſtrengthen the Fence.

In places where there are Vacancies in Hedges, ſet Truncheons, or Twigs of the White Sallow, or of Black Sallow; if it be a dry Bank, or chalky Ground, the Black Sallow is beſt, and will preſently make a good Fence: but if the Ground is moiſt, then the White or Grey Sallow. So now is the Time to plant Fences of Quickſet,

in two or three Rows, a- . . . . . :
bout eight Inches apart, . . . . . :
in the following manner, . . . . . :
which is the Quincunx Order.

Sow Haw-Thorn Berries for a Nurſery for Fences in a Piece of Ground that will not be diſturb'd in two Years, for they will not come up till the ſecond Year.

It is now a proper Seaſon to plant Elder-Sets about two Foot long for Fences. N.B. This will grow and proſper in the moſt ſtony or rocky Ground, where nothing elſe will do well.

We may alſo plant Truncheons, or Sets of Alders or Abeles, or Poles of them, in moiſt Ground; for in ſuch Land they proſper extremely, but will grow in any Ground that is not very dry. There is but one Objection that I know againſt plaſhing and mending Fences in this Month, and that is, in Hunting Countries one muſt expect Gaps to be made till the Hunting Seaſon is over, and therefore ſome defer the mending of Fences till the next Month; but it is much the beſt for the Plants that we deſign to ſet, to plant them as ſoon as the Weather is open: as for the ſhortneſs of the Days, which ſome object againſt at this time, it is nothing to the purpoſe, for Hedgers and Ditchers are employ'd by the Rod; ſo that a Man is only paid in proportion to his Work.

In

In Frosty Weather, carry Manures or Composts upon the Lands; such as are the lightest upon the stiff Land, and such as are more stiff and heavy upon the light Land.

Now lay Straw in the High-ways, and such places where Cattle frequent, in order to make a Compost for your stiff Lands.

In this Month you may cut Underwood, and Springs of Wood, or that Work may be left till the next Month. In the cutting of Spring Wood, observe how many Years growth your Springs or Coppices should be before they are fit for cutting; if seven Years, you must divide your Coppices into seven Parts, and cut one Part every Year, so you will constantly have a Supply from year to year; or if they require eight or nine Years growth, divide your Coppices into as many Parts. At this time set Truncheons of Alder, Willow, Sallow, Abele, *&c.* if you have Vacancies in your Coppices. This Month's cutting is most proper for Bavens, or Faggoting, or Poles, but the next Month for Hoops.

Be careful to keep Cattle from your Springs, or Coppices, for they are now very subject to brouse and crop the tender Shoots.

This is a busy Month for threshing of Beans, Pease, and such Grain as should be sown for Summer Crops, for 'tis of great

advantage to any Grain to remain in the Husk till the Seed-time is at hand. It will ſprout with great Vigour.

Now is alſo a proper Time to cleave and make up Stack-wood, which is done always by the Great, as well as Faggoting and Bavening, or the cutting of Spring or Coppice Wood by the Rod.

This is the propereſt Seaſon to deſtroy the *Mole* or *Want*, for they make their Neſts about the beginning of the Month, and encreaſe plentifully.

Prune and thin the cluſter'd Wood in your Orchard Trees, if that Work was not done in *December*.

About the beginning of the Month, give ſome Feed to your Pidgeons mix'd with Cummin Seeds, which will make your Dove-Court rich, early in the Spring; for early Pidgeons ſell well in the Markets, and there is nothing which promotes the breeding of Pidgeons more than Cummin Seed.

It ſhould be obſerv'd that Poultry, as well as all other Creatures, are more ſubject to breed early, as they are invigorated by hot Food, or a plenty of wholeſome Food: ſo that now, as well as in *December*, let not your common Poultry want, that there may be Chickens fit for the Table in *April*, which is a Month when they are valuable in many Markets; but to have Chickens

the moſt valuable about *London*, is to have them now fit for the Table, as will be directed in another Month.

To fatten Chickens the beſt way and quickly, is to put them into Coops as uſual, and feed them with Barley Meal; but in particular to put a ſmall quantity of Brick-duſt in their Water, which they ſhould never be without: this laſt will give them an Appetite to their Meat and fatten them very ſoon. For in this Caſe we muſt conſider, that all Fowls and Birds have two Stomachs, as we may call them, the one is the Crop which ſoftens their Food, and the other the Gizzard which macerates their Food; in the laſt, we always find ſmall Stones and ſharp Sand, which help to do that office; and without them, or ſomething of that kind, a Fowl is wanting of its Appetite to eat; for the Gizzard cannot macerate, or, as we may ſay, grind the Food faſt enough to diſcharge it from the Crop, without ſuch Sand or Stones, and here the Brick-duſt is aſſiſting. This Receipt I had from Mrs. *Whaley* of *Loftes* in *Eſſex*, a Lady of great Curioſity and Ingenuity. Nor need we be wanting of ſuch Chickens or any other Fowls, even in the hotteſt Seaſons, tho' they were to be brought from the moſt remote Parts, if we take the following Method, which I had from the ſame Lady, who experienc'd it upon ſome Par-

tridges, which ſhe kept near ten days in the warmeſt Seaſon of the Year. Let the Fowls be pick'd clean of their Feathers, preſently after they are kill'd; and when they are drawn, dry a Napkin very well, and as ſoon as it is cold, dry the inſide of the Fowls as much as poſſible with it, and lay them in another dry cool Napkin till they are quite cool; then put them into a dry glazed Earthen Veſſel, and melt a ſufficient quantity of good Butter to pour over them, ſo as to cover them two Inches; but care muſt be taken not to pour the Butter on them too hot. And I find that 'tis not only ten Days, but three Weeks or a Month in hot Weather, that a Fowl will keep good by this method of Management, and will then bear roaſting as well as a Fowl that has been kill'd but a Day; and, in my opinion, is preferable to a Fowl of that date. The Lady adds, that there can be little Objection againſt the Expence, becauſe ſhe ſays the Butter is the only Charge, and that is uſeful after there has been occaſion to uſe the Fowls. A Philoſopher can eaſily judge how rational it is to take theſe ſteps in the preſervation of dead Bodies from Putrefaction; but ſuch Farmers, who yet are not ſo great Philoſophers as they ſhould be, may learn that every Animal Body after Death is more ſubject to Putrefaction the more it abounds in Juices;

2. That

2. That theſe Juices, when their motion is ceas'd, become proper Neſts for the admiſſion and nurſing of the Eggs or Seeds of Inſects; for we find the Inſects are enticed by them to lay their Eggs in them, which ſoon renders the Body fetid, and of an ill ſavour; ſo muſt we obſerve, all Bodies of Fowls or other Animals muſt, immediately after they are kill'd, be diſcharg'd as much as poſſible from their liquid Parts, and be defended from any Invaſion from Inſects, till they are quite cold, and then encloſed from the Air entirely, if poſſible, to keep them from Putrefaction. 'Tis for theſe reaſons the dry Napkins are here neceſſary, and the covering of the Fowls till they are cold with dry Napkins, and then immediately burying them in Butter, or it may be Oil would keep them ſweet as long as Butter; but then ſuch Oil will not be uſeful on any other account.

Keep your Chickens from Snails or Slugs this Month, for it gives them a Sickneſs which makes them droop: and now examine the number of your Poultry, and leave only a Cock to ſeven or eight Hens, that your Summer Breed may be ſtrong; but if you have not a ſufficient number of Cocks for the Hens, rather ſell off ſome of the Hens than buy in Cocks which are Strangers, for there will be a diſagreement which will

will occaſion a weakneſs and poorneſs in the Chickens.

Put up ſome Hogs for fattening as in the former Month, for in a cold Seaſon they will beſt take Salt, and more eaſily and cheaply be cured, becauſe the Fires now are more conſtant than in the following Months; and 'tis the continued Smoke which greatly helps their Cure.

Geeſe and Ducks may be forced to lay and ſett early, by putting them in a cover'd place and feeding them well, and allowing them every day Water a little warm in a large Tub, early in the Morning; for the young ones of theſe ſell well at the *London* Markets when they come early.

In the Dairy there is little extraordinary to be done in this Month; but as to the Buſineſs of the Churn, the greateſt difficulty is in the cold Months to bring the Butter: therefore ſet the bottom of the Churn in a Tub of warm Water, and there will not be a fourth part of the trouble, for this warmth will occaſion the more Fat or Oily Parts, to ſeparate eaſily from the more Watry Parts.

Now be careful of your Lambs to houſe them, and ſuckle them, as directed in my Monthly Works, for they now fetch a good price; and be not unmindful of your tame Rabbits, or thoſe which are kept in ſmall paved Warrens, giving them chiefly dry

dry Meat, ſuch as Hay, Oats and Bran, and not above one Feed of Greens in a Day.

In froſty Weather, break the Ice every Day in the deepeſt parts of your Ponds, and lay ſome Pea-Haulm in ſuch Places, it will help to keep the Holes open.

If the Weather be now open, 'tis a good time to ſet *Spaniſh* and Hotſpur Beans for early Crops.

There are many things which may be done in the Houſe by a good Houſewife, which may more properly appear in another Work; and I eſpecially reſerve them to be inſerted in *Xenophon*'s *Oeconomy*, which I deſign ſhortly to publiſh; and therefore deſire either Gentlemen or Ladies, who have any Receipts which may be beneficial or agreeable to the Publick, that they will pleaſe to communicate them to me, to be left at Mr. *Fowler*'s, Mathematical Inſtrument Maker, in *Swithins-Alley* near the *Royal Exchange*, and I ſhall gratefully acknowledge their favours; and I think that ſuch a Work, enrich'd from ſeveral Parts and Countries, will be of general uſe.

*FE-*

# *FEBRUARY.*

THIS Month hath been obſerved to be attended with cold wet Weather, in ſome of the moſt Woody Countries; but in the flat Countries where I have been, I have generally found the Weather pretty moderate at this time, and very proper for ſowing almoſt any kind of Grain; ſo that now there is no time to loſe, all Hands, and all the Teams that can be procured, are little enough for large Farms to get the Ground cropt compleatly for a Summer Harveſt.

A Farmer's firſt Care ſhould be to contrive and fix his Crops for the ſeveral Parcels of his Ground, that he may go on in his Buſineſs without Heſitation, and ſow his light Grounds firſt; alſo he muſt obſerve that his light Seeds ſhould now be the firſt ſown, ſuch as Carrots, Parſnips, Onions, and ſuch like; and let him be ſure to appoint his light

light deep Soil for ſuch Plants as are valuable in their Roots; for in ſuch Soils the Roots proſper, and are large and well taſted.

Make now Plantations of Liquorice in deep Sandy Soil, planting the Heads of Liquorice about a Foot apart, and the whole Piece muſt be ſown with Onions, which will produce a profitable Crop the ſame Year; but the Liquorice will not be fit to take up till the third Year: Or, you may Sow your Liquorice Ground with any other Crop the firſt Year, that may be gather'd that Summer, and that does not yield too much ſhade.

The light Ground alſo is very good for Potatoes, which ſhould likewiſe be planted in this Month from ſmall Knobs or Roots, which ſhould be ſet a foot aſunder; they will afford a good profitable Crop for Winter.

Now prepare and dreſs your Hop Grounds by flinging up freſh Mould upon the Hop-Hills, and Weeding them and Thinning the Runners, ſo as to leave only five or ſix of the ſtrongeſt Shoots.

Prune out the dead Wood from your Cherry-Orchards.

Now ſpread ſome good freſh Soil upon your Meadow Land, which will cover and nouriſh the Roots of your Graſs.

If

If your Wheat is pretty Strong or Rank, feed it with Sheep, which will make it ſpread and branch; but let this not be done if the Ground is very wet.

Now ſow Barley either alone, or with Clover and Rye-Graſs; when with Clover, then the Field is deſign'd to be laid down for Graſs: in this Work the Barley muſt be ſown firſt and harrow'd, and then ſow the Clover and Rye-Graſs, and Harrow them in with Buſhes.

Sow now Oats which are either the Black or the White; the Black does beſt upon Chilturn Ground.

You may likewiſe now ſow big or four-row'd Barley, which will juſt bring as much more Grain as the common two-row'd Barley; it makes very good Malt, and is much uſed in the North of *England*. So likewiſe, if it can be had, ſow ſome of the ſix-row'd Barley, which ſome Farmers in *Devonſhire* have raiſed with great Succeſs; but it is ſcarce, and I believe will be come at with ſome difficulty, however a little will ſoon produce a vaſt encreaſe, ſuppoſing only one Ear bearing 150 Grains will very probably bring as many Plants if ſown carefully; and as this generally brings 8 or 10 Heads upon a Plant, one may eaſily gueſs how ſoon one may gain Corn enough to ſow an Acre: the dreſſing for common Barley ſerves for this.

There

There is a ſort of Wheat and Rye, which I receiv'd from the North Side of the *Appennine Mountains*, and have communicated to ſeveral Gentlemen in *England*, which brings good Crops, being ſown at this Seaſon, with only common Dreſſing, ſuch as for Barley.

Now ſow Peaſe for Seed, and ſet broad Beans: ſow Horſe-Beans in ſtiff Land, that they may be ripe betimes.

Sow Vetches, or Tares, upon chilturn or gravelly Soil.

Now is a proper Seaſon to ſow Tills or Lentels, upon chalky Land, or where the Surface or Staple is ſhallow; they make an excellent Fodder for Cattle.

Sow Teaſels upon ſtiff wet Land.

Spread Wood-Aſhes upon ſuch Graſs Lands as are Moſſy.

Where the Ground is cold, you may ſow Pidgeons Dung along with your Corn, as is practiſed in the Iſle of *Ely*, with good Succeſs.

Sow white Clover with Rye-Graſs upon cold moiſt Land.

We may now cut Timber of any ſort except the Oak, but that muſt be left longer ſtanding for the ſake of the Bark, which is valuable for the Tanners Uſe, and in this Month will not peel, unleſs one was to uſe Art with it, ſuch as making a good Fire about the Tree before we cut it down,

down, and then pouring hot Water over the Trunk, which will thin the Juices enough, as I am inform'd, to make the Bark ſlip eaſily. It is very certain, that the Oaks, which one may fall at this time, will have their Timber in a much better Condition for uſe and laſting, than thoſe that are cut in *April*, when the Juices are watry; and tho' the Method I mention will be a little troubleſome, yet the ſuperiour Goodneſs of the Timber will countervail.

We may yet cut Underwood and Coppice Wood, and Hazle, eſpecially for making of Hurdles.

This Month, and no later, cut Oziers, and alſo plant Oziers this Month; for tho' ſuch Plantations may be made till the end of *March*, yet they will be much ſtronger by early planting.

Set Truncheons of Alders, Abeles, Willow, Sallow, *&c.* if that Work was not done in the former Month.

Now ſow in the new-made Hedge-rows ſome Acorns and Aſhen Keys, or ſet here and there ſome Cheſnuts, or Walnuts; they will require no more trouble than the firſt putting them into the Ground, and the Buſhes will guard them ſufficiently from the Cattle.

If you have taken care in the laſt Month to help your Dove-Court with warm Food, ſuch as is there directed, you may expect now

now to draw ſome Pidgeons, which will fetch a good Price in the Markets; one now will be worth three or four in *March*.

At the beginning of this Month one may remove Colonies of Bees, if the Weather be cold; but if the Weather happens to be warm, as I have generally obſerv'd it, then 'tis much the beſt way to buy Swarms; eſpecially Bees will thrive beſt where there are ſtore of Flowers, chiefly where there are large Commons of Gorze or Furze, or Whins and Broom, and Heath: they coſt nothing to maintain, and proſper exceedingly where they have ſuch Benefits; therefore in ſuch places they ſhould not be wanting, for their Wax and Honey amount to a good Value, eſpecially if the latter be apply'd to make the Liquor call'd Metheglin, or ſtrong Mead, which is an excellent nouriſhing Drink, and I much wonder it is not more frequent, ſeeing how eaſily it may be had. And in ſuch places the Bees cannot miſcarry, but be ſtrong Stocks, if they are kept warm in the Severity of the Winter Seaſon: for this end, I prefer the Boxes rather than Straw-Hives; for the Box-Hives may give as much room as one pleaſes to the Bees, that they may work Year after Year without being deſtroy'd; but the Straw-

Hives, as ſoon as they are full, oblige us to deſtroy the Bees themſelves, if we are to make uſe of the Honey. If Bees have room enough, and are not interrupted, they will lay up a prodigious Store. In ſome hollow Places, where the Bees made their Combs of their own accord, has been found about eight or nine hundred Pounds weight of Honey and Wax at one time. I can't help obſerving, that if the Weather proves very hot, as it did about four Years ago, the Bees will be inclinable to ſwarm, as I then found in ſeveral places in *England*; but I do not find that this ever happen'd before, in the Memory of any Man now living.

Now is the beſt Seaſon for the ſtoring or ſtocking of Ponds, obſerving that the Store Fiſh be the Spawn of the foregoing Year; and, if poſſible, to bring them out of ſmall Ponds to large Ponds, and from lean gravelly Waters to fat rich Waters. I have experienc'd that theſe ſmall Fiſh will be near as big again in four Years, as thoſe which are put in with them of ſix or eight Inches long. The Carp and Tench love to be together, and delight in fat and black Waters, as they are call'd; and Jacks, or Pikes, and Perch, live and thrive in colder and clearer Waters. Theſe laſt may be fed by putting Frog-

Frog-Spawn into the Ponds in *March*, in order to breed there, for Frogs are a very good Feed for Jacks; or elſe one may, in the Month of *April*, get a ſtock of young Fry of Dace and Roaches, and put them into our Jack-Ponds for Food for the Jacks, or they may be fed with the Entrails of Fowls, which a Farmer of Corn Grounds will ſeldom be without; for in ſuch Farms ought chiefly to be a great number of Poultry, for otherwiſe there would be a great waſte of Corn at the Barn-door, and it is the Intereſt of ſuch a Farmer in moſt places to fatten his own Fowls for the Market, as well as to breed them, and alſo to put them in a Condition ready for uſe. The Feathers will pay very well for the Labour of his Women Servants in pulling them, and the Entrails will improve his Fiſh; or the Jacks, Perch, Carps, and Tench will feed and fatten to be fed with Grains; but the Carps eſpecially thrive extremely, if they are fed with any ſort of Grain, or Raſpings of Bread, or in ſome places they grow fat with Sheeps, or Hogs, or Ox's Blood: but there is one thing which ſhould be obſerv'd, in order to the taking of Fiſh with eaſe, to feed our Ponds always at one place, and uſe them to a certain Call, and they will be as tame as

any other Creature; that is, when you have a mind to make them familiar, chuſe a place of the Pond which you deſign to feed them at, and juſt before you fling in what you deſign for their Food, either give a Whiſtle, or make any other Noiſe that may be loudly heard, ſuch as you deſign to continue to them at Feeding-time; and by degrees, perhaps in ten Days, you will find the Fiſh will come to the Feeding-place at your call, and in time will crowd ſo together, that you may take them eaſily with a large Hoop-Net, or Landing-Net: but for the firſt Fortnight I would adviſe, that not only the Place and the Call be conſtantly the ſame, but alſo the Time of feeding. I ſhall not here pretend to ſay, whether the Fiſh actually hear the Call, or whether it is only the Preſſure of the Air upon the Water by Whiſtling or Hollowing, which makes them ſenſible; but this I am certain of, that Fiſh may be treated at this rate, ſo as we may take them at pleaſure.

If you have Ponds lying one below another, draw the upper Pond firſt, and put the Fiſh which you deſign for feeding in the ſecond Pond, and ſow the bottom of the firſt Pond with Oats, which may eaſily be done, without any other trouble

trouble beſides caſting the Grain upon the Mud, and drawing an Inſtrument like a Harrow over it, by two Ropes, between two Men, one on one ſide, and another on the other. Theſe Oats will preſently come up; and when they are abou four or five Inches high, let in the Water, and put in as many Brace as you think convenient for the Quantity of Water. The Sword or Blade of theſe Oats will laſt about three Weeks, and in that time fatten Carps to a ſurprizing degree. When this Pond is ſo order'd, the next below it may be managed in the ſame manner, and ſo on to the laſt Pond.

Now is the Time when we ſhould be careful that our Fowls in the Decoys begin to lay; ſo that there ſhould be a Watch to prevent the Neſts being diſturb'd; and at this time moſt of our common Poultry lay plentifully, as well thoſe of the Waters, as of the Land. I have known ſome of the *China* Geeſe hatch in this Month, without Art; but our own ſhould be aſſiſted in *December* or *January* with good nouriſhing Food, if they are deſign'd for bringing young ones this Month: obſerve the Directions for this purpoſe in *January*.

We may ſtill continue to feed Swine for Pork or Bacon, or for pickling; but after *March* I would not adviſe any Swine to be kill'd for long keeping.

Save the Pigs which are farrow'd in this Month, to kill for Pork in *September*; they may be fed cheap with a Waſh made of Graves and warm Water, till they are put up for fatting; but leave not above five Pigs to each Sow, that they may be ſtrong.

The tame Rabbits may about the end have a larger ſhare of green Dyet, than they had in the former Month.

This is the beſt Seaſon for ſowing of Hemp, which delights in ſtrong Ground.

*MARCH.*

# *MARCH.*

THIS Month is commonly attended with dry blighting Winds, which ſometimes bring little black Flies, in great Quantities, that attack the Beans and Peaſe; but if the Weather proves a little ſhow'ry, it will be of great ſervice to the ſown Seeds of laſt Month, as well as for the Seeds to be ſown in this. If it ſhould happen that this Fly invades us, I think it neceſſary to burn the Crop, rather than continue it: for we may be aſſured, that there can be no Profit ariſe by letting it remain on the Ground; and if we turn up our Ground afreſh at this time, there is a Proſpect of making an Advantage of ſuch Ground the ſame Summer, for it is not yet too late to ſow many things. Many Farmers indeed have been willing to expect ſome Relief from Rains which

might happen, ſuppoſing that a little wet would deſtroy the Flies; but in all the Crops I have ever ſeen thus infected, I have found that a little Wet will not deſtroy 'em. And ſo the Farmers have wiſh'd, when it was too late, that they had new cropt their Land, when the Seaſon yet had opportunity of acting in their favour. But we have ſometimes Showers in this Month, which rather help the Farmer in ploughing and ſowing, than prevent him: Notwithſtanding the old Rule of ſowing dry, by which is only meant, that it is not proper to ſow our Grain when the Ground is over-wet or miry, for then the Seed will be in danger of rotting: but I am ſatisfied from Experience, that while the Ground is a little moiſt, it is much more nouriſhing to the Seed, than when it is dry, and the Seed will then more quickly ſpring.

If we have not yet got in all our Barley, we may ſow it in hope of Rain to bring it up, either about the end of this Month, or in the following.

We may yet ſow Oats, both the white and black, with the ſame expectation of Wet.

Peaſe, either the grey or other ſorts proper for Field-Crops, may now be ſown, for they frequently rot and canker by

by much Wet. And alſo now we may ſet the broad *Windſor* Bean. We now muſt finiſh the ſowing of Horſe-beans and Vetches.

The beginning of this Month is the lateſt Seaſon for ſowing of Woad or Wod, which is the Plant call'd *Glaſtum* in *Latin*. This is of extraordinary uſe to Dyers, and if it be carefully managed, will be worth about thirty or forty Pounds an Acre the firſt Year, eſpecially if, during the Summer, it has the advantage of refreſhing Showers: I have known five Crops cut in one Year; but the firſt and ſecond are the beſt. It will laſt good three or four Years, unleſs you let it run to ſeed; but it ſhould always be cut as ſoon as the Leaf is full grown. Almoſt any Ground will do for it that is not too ſtiff or too wet; and if the Ground be freſh, good ploughing and beating will be better for it than Dung. This dyes a blue Colour, and is more in uſe among the Dyers, than any other Herb or Drug.

Now upon freſh ſtrong Ground ſow Flax, and you may expect a good Crop; there is no need of Dung for this, but the Ground muſt be beat and made fine.

This Month is one of the principal Months in the year for Brewing, and a wiſe

wiſe Farmer will now brew a Quantity to laſt the Summer; for what is now brew'd, will keep.

With the Barley or Oats that is ſown this Month, ſow Weld, or what ſome call Dyer's Weed, to be harrow'd in with Buſhes; but this will not be a Crop till the year following: it is a very ſmall Seed, and muſt be ſown thin, and it will bring a very profitable return to be ſold to the Dyers, who uſe abundance of it for Dying of Yellow. I have known fifteen pounds an Acre made of this Plant. It loves dry Ground beſt, and will grow in Land without Dung, if it was to be ſown a ſingle Crop, but then we muſt conſider we loſe the Ground the firſt Year: however, what Land will not do for Corn, will do for this, or it may be ſown now with Canary Seed, which will bring a good Crop the firſt Summer, and thrives well in dry Ground without any Manure.

Pretty ſoon in this Month ſow *St. Foine*, upon Gravelly and Chilturn Grounds that are dry: 'tis a wonderful improver of Land, and is very good Fodder for Cattle, either made into Hay or green in the Field. I have known it cut three times in a Year.

La Lucern, a ſort of Clover, ſo call'd from the name of the Place it was firſt brought

brought from in *Germany*; it bears a ſmall yelloviſh Seed, and will proſper even in the dryeſt Ground, it is a very quick Grower, and may be cut three or four times in a Summer; there is no need of Dung or other Manure where this is ſown, unleſs we ſpread a little over the Field in *January*, about the third year after ſowing; and ſo you may continue to do till it is worn out, and the ſame may be done with the other *French*-Graſſes as they call them. This I have ſeen growing very ſtrong in Clay Grounds and in Gravelly Soil, and Chalky Lands; in a word, it thrives every where.

Now is the time for ſowing of Teaſels, whoſe rough Heads, when they are ripe, are uſed by the Cloath-Workers for dreſſing of Cloath; an Acre of cold Clay Ground, will bring near an hundred and eighty Bundles, which may be ſold for as many Shillings, where the Woollen Manufacture is carry'd on. This I eſteem one of the beſt Improvements for ſtiff cold Ground, but conſider your Market when you ſow this, for elſe the Carriage may run away with moſt of the Profit. About nine Quarts of Seed will ſow an Acre, or if it be ſown with Coriander Seed, as ſome do, then about half the Quantity of

of Seed will do, and both the Crops will be ripe the ſame year.

Now ſow Caroway Seed, but as this will not bring its Crop till the ſecond year, ſow along with it an equal Quantity of Coriander Seed; I mean, ſuch a Quantity of Coriander as may produce an equal number of Plants, for the Seed of this is much larger than the Caroway Seed. A Clay Ground does very well for theſe Seeds, but it muſt be well plow'd and without Dung; the Caroways will bring good Crops three years ſucceſſively, if they are kept clear from Weeds. All theſe bring valuable Crops.

Now ſow white Clover upon moiſt Clay Ground, and you may ſow Rye-Graſs with it.

Towards the end ſow Spurry Seed, which will ripen its Crop about *July*.

Sow Muſtard Seed in ſtrong Clay Ground; if it lies a little wet, it is not the worſe.

You may this Month turn your Cows and Sheep into ſuch Grounds as you have ſown with Cole Seed or Rape Seed, if Graſs or Fodder is ſcarce; but let them go no longer there than till the end of the Month.

It is not proper to kill Hogs for pickled Pork or drying for Bacon later than this

this Month; for the Fleſh will not receive Salt kindly, and the Fat will be apt to grow ruſty.

Now your Dove-Court Pidgeons are in great plenty, and though ſome Farmers are at the expence of keeping them off their new-ſown Fields; it is my opinion that they eat none of the Grain, but what happens not to be cover'd, and conſequently would never grow: for they do not dig as the Rooks do, but peck as they walk from place to place; and then it is rather advantageous to the Farmer to give them the freedom of the Field: but the Rooks are miſchievous.

In this Month, if the Weather be not too Cold and Windy, and there is good ſtore of Flowers abroad, your Bees will begin to breed. Lay Turpentine near their Hives, it will help them very much, and place ſome Veſſels of Water near them, which muſt often be renew'd if they have not the conveniency of a Pond already near them, for they delight in it: obſerve likewiſe to remove from about their Hives every thing which may yield the leaſt offenſive ſmell.

If you happen to have any Cows calve this Month, put them in the Houſe the ſame day, and keep them there till the next day, giving them what Water is neceſſary,

ceſſary, a little warm'd. In the warmeſt part of the following days, you may turn them out to Graſs, but return them to the Houſe every night for a Week or ten Days. Before they go abroad in the Days, give them Water as above. 'Tis beſt for the Dairy when Cows calve in this Month or *April*, and the Calves of theſe Months will make the ſtrongeſt Cattle; for the Cows now begin to give ſtore of Milk, and the Calves will be well nouriſh'd, and be ſtrong before Winter. It is beſt to let the Calves run with the Cows for the firſt year, if we deſign to breed them for large or ſtrong Cattle, and not to wean the Calves too early.

The Piggs which are farrow'd in this Month are very good to breed up, and be ſure they have plenty of Food for the firſt five or ſix Months, that they may grow large; for if they are thinly fed in the time of their growth, they will never be made to thrive afterwards.

Begin now to ſtock Hare-Warrens with Leverets.

About the middle of this Month, is the beſt time for Turkeys to take their Neſt for ſetting, for then we may expect warm Weather againſt the time of Hatching; for the Turkey Poults are very tender.

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In this Month, where fireing is ſcarce, we may ſow *French* Furze upon poor Land, 'tis very good Fuel for Burning of Bricks, and many houſhold Uſes; it makes a very quick and brisk Fire, as ſoon as 'tis cut; this is very uſeful in burning of Land.

Brick Earth may now be dug and prepared for making of Bricks the next Month.

In this Month many of your Poultry Hens will cluck for ſetting, and in this caſe chuſe the Eggs from good Breeders, and particularly from ſuch as are little more than a year old; but chuſe the old Hens to ſet upon the Eggs, for they will ſet cloſe and bring out the beſt Brood of Chickens, and take more care to breed them up than the young ones. You may now likewiſe ſet Duck-Eggs under Hens, to have a Succeſſion of young Ducks; for if you ſet Duck-Eggs in the ſame manner laſt Month, you will now have young Ducks, which will bring a good price: ſo I doubt not but Gooſe Eggs might be forwarded in the ſame manner, but with theſe Cautions; that the Hen be of a large Breed, and put no more Eggs under her than ſhe can cover cloſe. Or one might uſe a method to hatch Eggs, as I have done ſeveral years ago, according to the *Ægyp-*

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*tian* method, who uſed to hatch them in Ovens; but my way is in a hot Bed, either made of Horſe Dung or Tanners Bark. Take an Earthen Veſſel, like a Garden Pot, but not quite ſo deep, fill it half way with Wool or Cotton, and lay as many Eggs on the Bed of Wool as will make a ſingle Layer, ſo as not to come within an Inch of the ſides of the Veſſel; then fill up the Pot with Wool, covering the Eggs about four Inches, and ſet the Pot up to the Rims in the Bed, and cover the Bed with a Frame and Glaſſes, ſuch as you uſe for Cucumbers, and theſe will hatch in due time. But if then the Weather proves very cold, they muſt be carefully nurs'd by the Fire ſide; and if they are Water Fowl, they muſt have Pans of Water agreeably warm, which of their own accord they will go into. If you can make Fowls lay, you may always hatch them.

Now you may tranſport the Eggs of many ſorts of curious Fowls from one place to another, in Boxes of Bran cloſe ſhut down, to ſet under Hens, or to hatch this artificial way, or in Sand Heats, as the late Mr. *Darby*, a curious Gardner at *Hoxton*, has done; but theſe artificial Methods are not worth the trouble they occaſion, unleſs it is that we want to get into

into a Stock of curious Sorts, or to hatch Green Geeſe for nice Eaters, at a Guinea a piece; which I remember has been given for them at a Week old.

We may yet plant Sets or Twigs, or Truncheons of Willow, Sallow, Alder, Ozier, and ſuch like in moiſt and wet Grounds.

Now is the Seaſon for planting of Madder Setts, in light Soil well plow'd; but it will not be in perfection till the third year; the Root is the part which is uſed by the Dyers, and is held to be a very precious Commodity for Dying of Red. But tho' it is a long time coming to perfection, it brings very rich Crops. As for the firſt year, the Farmer may ſow the Ground with any low Crop which will be fit to draw or cut before the Summer is over, as Onions, &c.

In this Month new earth and dreſs your Hops, putting freſh Earth to the Roots, firſt pruning them.

Now feed your Breeding Pheaſants with Paſte made of Barley Meal, mix'd and made into Paſte, with Water and Eggs, beaten Shells, and all this will make them lay early, and then keep the Eggs in Bran. Have regard to your Lambs.

Suffer now no longer any Cattle to feed in your Meadows, but turn them out, and see that all your Fences are in good repair.

If this Month proves windy, by no means shift your Fish from one Pond to another, unless they are very near one another, for the Winds will kill them; but 'tis now a good Season to dig Ponds.

In your artificial Warren, examine the young Rabbits, and castrate the Males to grow large.

## *APRIL.*

# APRIL.

THIS Month is for the moſt part mild and gentle, and frequently ſubject to Showers; the Trees and Herbs every day ſhew us a new Face: our Orchards bloom and promiſe the Reward of our Labours, but at the ſame time the Sluggard, if there can be one among the Farmers, will be expoſed. We ought in this Month to ſee moſt of our Fields laid down for Crops, if the Weather has been any way favourable; for any of the common ſorts of Corn ſown afterwards, will be poor and weak, or perhaps not come up at all, unleſs we ſhould happen to have dripping Weather in *May*. And as it has already happen'd, that we have had dry *Aprils* and *Mays*, why may we not expect them and

provide againſt them? for any ſort of Weather almoſt at this Seaſon will keep our Grain, when 'tis once above ground; but it muſt be a particular ſort that is proper to bring up the Seed, for which reaſon I adviſe the ſowing our Corn, and cropping our Grounds early, if we can, that we may have the better chance for bringing up our Crops.

In this Month hough your Carrots and Parſnips, with an Hough that has a four or five-inch Blade, and hough your Onions with one of a two-inch Blade.

Now carefully weed your Woad-Field, and at the ſame time take care that the Woad Plants ſtand ſingle; for if they grow cloſe together, they ſpoil one another.

If the Bark of the Oak will now riſe, fell ſuch Oaks as you deſign, and ſave the Bark for the Tanners.

Where the Grounds have been very wet, there is yet a fortnight in this Month, that one may ſow Clover and the other *French*-Graſſes.

We may alſo ſow Spurry-Seed this Month, for it eaſily comes up, eſpecially if the Ground be a little moiſt.

The Buck-Wheat, or Brank, may now be ſown in Sandy Lands; it is tender,

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and ſhould not be ventur'd ſooner in the Ground; it makes good Fodder for Cattle, and the Grain very good for fattening of Fowls; the Partridge is very fond of it, and may be found there ſooner than in other Fields, when the Grain begins to be ripe.

One may now produce a Croſs-ſtrain of Fowls, between a Cock Pheaſant and the Hens of common Poultry, if we keep a Pheaſant Cock in company with ſix or ſeven Hens, in a place where there can be no other mixture: the Fowls bred from theſe will be of a delicate Fleſh.

Continue the forcing Meat to the penn'd or tame breeding Pheaſants; and as ſoon as you have Eggs enough, ſet them under Hens.

Now you will have a large Increaſe in your artificial Warren, and take care to examine your Rabbits every day; for ſome Does will bring ten at one Kindle or Birth, and there ſhould not be left above five to ſuck the Dams; give the reſt to the Dogs, for more than five weakens the Doe, and they never grow large; obſerve that the Males muſt be caſtrated, and they will become as large as Hares. Their green Food is now chiefly depending upon Weeds, ſuch as

the Sonchus or the Sow-thiſtle, or Cole-wort Leaves, but the beſt is the tops of the *Michaelmas* Carrots: but neglect not their dry Meat of Oats, Bran and Hay. Save now what Buck Rabbits you deſign to breed from.

You may now feed Green Geeſe or Goſlins with Offalls of Lettice, till they are fat, and in ſome Grounds which are ſown or planted for laſting Crops, it will be well worth while to ſow Lettice for this uſe; they may be ſown among your Liquorice in *February*, or in odd Corners.

We may tranſport Fiſh this Month from one Pond to another, if that work was not done in *February*: the way of carrying them is to lay your Carps, Tench or Jacks, upon clean dry Wheat Straw, and the Time of doing that Work ſhould be in the Evenings after Sun-ſet, or before the Sun riſe.

We may alſo this Month make Ponds or Canals in ſuch places as are boggy, or too much ſubject to the Waters, for here one can hardly expect to make any great matter by planting or ſowing, unleſs it be with Oziers or Willows; but Ponds of good Fiſh will turn to very good account. In themaking of Ponds or Canals, there is one way which may be taken,

taken, that will much contribute to the growth of the Fish, and be a means to prevent the Ponds being robb'd; and that is, by cutting a Channel about four or five Foot deep, thro' the middle of the Canal or Pond, to run length-ways; and if the other part of the Canal be about four or five Foot deep in Water, then in this part it may be about ten Foot deep, and there the large Fish will like to shelter themselves. And besides, in frosty Weather, in this deep Water, the Fish will have room, and in the warmer Seasons it will be impossible to draw such Ponds by Night, without the Hazard of the Men's Lives, if they were to go into the Ponds: and if they were to use Drag-Nets, which could reach quite cross the Pond, to be drawn by Men upon the Banks; these Nets would draw quite over the Fish, who would all fly to this deep place of shelter; but the Owner in the Day-time might send a Couple of Men into the Water, who with a Drag-Net, made on purpose to fit the Channel in the middle, might take what Fish they pleas'd without danger; but for their greater safety, may have Lines strain'd on each side the Channel to be their Guides.

If this Month proves very warm, Carps

will ſpawn, and the Females will ſicken after Spawning, ſo that they will then be very unwholeſome and unfit for eating, till about five or ſix Weeks afterwards: if poſſible, ſuffer no Eels in your Carp-Ponds, for they devour the Spawn of your Fiſh.

Deſtroy Water-Rats, for now they begin to breed, and will ſoon raiſe a large Colony, which will devour your young Fiſh. The beſt way to do it, is with Crackers made with Gun-powder and Paper; half a dozen or half a ſcore ty'd to a String of quick Match, three or four Inches aſunder, and with a Willow Twig put them into the Holes, and then with a lighted Match and a few Dogs begin the Attack, by ſetting Fire to the quick Matches, which will let off the Crackers and frighten the Rats out of their Holes, which the Dogs will then deſtroy, or give them ſuch an Alarm as will drive them to ſome other Quarter.

We may yet plant Madder, if the Weather be moiſt.

You may now cut your Woad and weed the whole, hough and weed all your ſtanding Crops, before the Weeds run to Seed; it will ſave you a great deal of trouble hereafter.

Cut up Thiſtles in your Graſs, 'twill deſtroy

deſtroy the Roots, and prevent their ſeeding and ſowing themſelves over the Country; for they have wing'd Seeds, and a little Wind will ſpread them a Mile or two.

If the Seaſon be dry, water your new-planted Liquorice, as well as the Plantation of Madder made in *March*.

When your Hops are ſhot about ſix Inches, pole them; and if they are ſtrong Hills, give them Poles of 15 or 20 Foot long, three Poles to each Hill will be enough; and ſo place them, that the Tops of the Poles may incline outwards as much as they conveniently can. This ſhould be, becauſe the Hops, when they are run up, ſhould not entangle with one another, but lie open and free, ſo as to admit the Air and Sun: ſet the Poles a Foot deep in the Earth, keep your Hill free from Weeds, and if your Hops are the firſt year's Planting, water them if the Seaſon be very dry.

In ſuch Hop-Grounds as are planted this Spring, you may ſet the *Windſor* broad Beans in Rows between the Hop-Hills.

The Graſs now carrying a good Sword or Blade, your Cows will give abundance of Milk, and the Dairy will produce good ſtore of Butter; ſo now likewiſe thin

thin Cheeſes, and thoſe which are call'd Cream Cheeſes, ſhould be made for the *London* Markets. I obſerve, that the fineſt bladed Graſs brings the richeſt Milk, tho' in ſmaller Quantities than the large rank Graſs.

If your Fields are annoy'd with Crow Garlick, 'tis now the time to root it out, and well worth while to employ Women to do it; for if Cows feed where it is, their Milk will taſte ſtrong of Garlick, and neither will your Cheeſe or Butter be good: likewiſe where your Cows feed, take care to weed out the Plant call'd *Alliaria* or Sauce alone, or by ſome Jack in the Hedge; for the Leaves of it have the Onion Flavour, and will give an unpleaſant taſte to the Milk of thoſe Cows which eat of it. The Country People in many places eat the Leaves of this with Bread and Butter, making it ſerve inſtead of Onions.

Now ſell off your Winter-fed Cattle, and buy in Cattle for Summer feeding, which you may turn into your Marſhes, if you have any which you do not deſign to mow.

Upon ſome of your dry warm and light Grounds, ſow Kidney-Beans, of thoſe ſorts which do not run, ſuch as the *Batterſea* Bean, or the *Turkey* Bean; theſe

theſe Beans may be partly gather'd green, and partly ſaved for Seed, both which will be very profitable: about *Batterſea* and *Wandſworth* Fields, are ſown of them every year.

At the beginning of this Month gather Elm-Seed, and after you have kept it a few days, till it changes yellow, ſow it in Beds in very fine Earth, cover'd about half an Inch deep, and ſpread a Net over the Bed to keep the Birds from it, for they are very voracious of it; keep it moderately moiſt, and it will ſoon come up.

At this time of the year the Farmers buy young Calves to ſuckle, and fatten them for the *London* Markets, and make great Profit of them.

Still continue to take care of Houſe-Lambs.

Cleanſe Ditches and Ponds, and collect whatever may be uſeful for enriching of Land, to be made into large Heaps.

Your Bees this Month will be full of Work; and I have known them ſwarm about the end, but that depends chiefly upon the warmth of the Weather, as I have mention'd in *February*: therefore if ſuch Weather happens, and you find them begin to cluſter about the Mouth of

of the Hive, watch them in the heat of the Day, and ſtick ſome Sprigs of Fennel and Baum in the Buſhes near at hand, which if they fly, will entice them to ſettle there. It has been a common way to beat a Kettle, or ſome Braſs Veſſel, as ſoon as they riſe, in order to make them ſettle near at hand; but the beſt way is to fire a Piſtol, charged only with Powder, between them and the Hive, about ten Yards behind them, and they will ſettle upon the firſt Buſh they can come at; this will bring them down, if they are riſen forty or fifty Yards in the Air.

If this Seaſon proves very hot and dry, happy is the Farmer who can water his Meadows.

If the Cater-pillar begins to take your Orchards, or there ſhould happen to be blighting Winds, make heaps of Straw to the Windward, and ſet them on fire, immediately covering the Fires with wet Straw, to make them ſmoke the more.

In ſome of the richeſt Grounds about *London*, I have known Graſs has been cut at the end of this Month; the reaſon was, that it grew extremely thick, and began to turn yellow at the bottom, and would have rotted there: the Fields I ſpeak of had always been kept in good

good heart, by ſpreading every Autumn upon them the Cleanings of Cow-yards, that had been collected the ſame Year; but moſt commonly 'tis the following Month, which is the Hay Harveſt within a dozen Miles round *London*, and in the Southern parts of *England*; but more Inland, the Hay-Harveſt commonly begins in *June*.

If your Barley is now rank, either mow it or feed it; but the firſt *May* is the beſt, but either of them will make your Corn ſpread into many Branches and yield plentifully.

If, according to cuſtom, the Farmer is reſolv'd to lay any of his Ground fallow, this is commonly the Month, eſpecially if it be dry; but this in my opinion is only done where Judgment is wanting; for to change Crops gives as much reſt to the Ground as Fallowing, and brings more profit to the Farmer; beſides by the changing of Crops, the continued working of the Ground will render it fine and tender.

Collect Leverets for your Hare Warren.

This Month is the pairing time for Partridges, and where you now hear them call in the Evening, you may expect a Covey if they are not diſturb'd.

*MAY.*

# *MAY.*

THIS Month generally proves hot and dry; but the Dews are very great and nouriſhing. We may expect however ſome paſſing Showers with Thunder, which are not diſagreeable to the Farmer, they are refreſhing to the ſtanding Crops and cannot do the Graſs, if there is any cut, any damage.

Now again look after your Hop-Garden, obſerving no Weeds annoy your Plants, and gently tie your Hop-Wires or Runners to the Poles: this may be done with Braſs, or with fine Ruſhes, or elſe with green Shoots of Broom; but the Shoots of the *Spaniſh* Broom bring the longeſt and ſtrongeſt Shoots, and may as well be propagated in the Fields as in the Gardens, not only for the value of its Binds or Shoots, but for the ſake of its

its Flowers, which are very good for Bees, and enrich an Apiary extremely. Expect your Bees to ſwarm, and watch them, obſerving the Directions in the foregoing Month.

Have an eye to your Woad Field, to keep it clean from Weeds; and when the Leaf is full grown, it is time to cut it.

This Month your breeding Mares ſhould be brought to the Stallion, for this is the Seaſon when they are in their higheſt Strength and Pride.

The Ways are now good, and continue to collect Manures for your Lands into large Heaps.

Cleanſe Ponds and Ditches; for that work in ſome places may now be done better than at any other time of the Year; and the Stuff taken out of them is of extraordinary uſe to ſuch Land as is accounted poor, if we would have it bring Corn; but I am ſatisfied that there is no Land, however poor it may be thought by Farmers, who have only follow'd the old way, but may be made as profitable as the beſt Corn-Land in *England*, only by adapting to it ſuch Plants as are natural to it; and by degrees may be brought to bear Corn, if we pleaſe, by chuſing a right Succeſſion of Crops. I

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now know ſeveral Parcels of Land in *England*, which are not ſet at more then Six-pence an Acre, which I would rather chuſe, than ſome that are now let for three Pounds an Acre: ſome Gentlemen, who have follow'd my Advice, have already found their Advantage, by cultivating ſome Lands which had always been eſteemed fit for no uſe; and many more may do the ſame, if they had Spirit enough to break through Cuſtom.

Now begin to prepare your Ground for Saffron, by plowing it ſhallow, for it muſt have another deeper Plowing the next Month, before you plant the Saffron, provided the Surface or Staple will bear it. A light Loam or middle Soil a little tender, is ſuch as will do beſt for Saffron; but I have ſeen it proſper very well in common heathy Ground, which is ſuch as is ſandy, and mix'd with ſmall Roots. The very ſtiff Ground is not proper for it, unleſs it can be made tender by Coal-Aſhes, ſharp Sand or light freſh Mould, or ſuch other Manure as will open its parts; Dung, which is the chief Manure, that is now uſed in thoſe Places which are famous for Saffron, is of bad conſequence to the Roots which are bulbous, by breeding a Canker in them; and tho' this is now the only Manure uſed by our

Farmers

Farmers for Saffron-Grounds, yet is there no more reason for it, but that it has been a Custom to lay on as much Dung upon an Acre, as commonly amounts to eight or ten Pounds value, and in some places a great deal more; but my Experience reaches me that a fresh Earth, a little light, if it has about five or six inches Surface or Staple, with a tolerable Bottom, will do much better than all the forced Earth by Dungs. For this is like all other bulbous Roots, which abhor Dungs; and will blow as strong again in a natural Soil, as they will in a mix'd forced Soil, and the larger the Blossom, so much the larger the Root will be, and the Strength of a Plant one Year denotes a Strength of the same Plant another Year. One Reason perhaps why all the Saffron Planters use Dungs for manuring their Grounds, is because those of *Saffron-Walden*, where the Saffron was first planted in *England*, have used themselves to that method ever since the first bringing it into *England*, which I am inform'd, was done by Sir *Walter Raleigh* from *Spain*; but I am satisfied, lately, it is a Plant growing without Culture now in *China*, from whence I suppose the *Spaniards* or *Portuguese* first receiv'd it. So that 'tis no wonder if it gets over

our Winters, for ſome parts of *China* are but a few Degrees more South than *Saffron-Walden*. From hence I would have a Farmer learn, that he is not under a Neceſſity of uſing Dung for the Culture of Saffron, for it grows wild in *China*; he may reaſonably ſuppoſe that there is no occaſion to give wild Plants or Weeds any Dung to make them grow better than they do naturally, eſpecially when they are removed to a Climate ſo little different from *China* as *England* is: let the Farmer only conſider that every Plant is natural to ſome place or other, and then he may be ſure that they will all grow, thrive, and bear Fruit without Dung, if they are removed into Climates that are agreeable to thoſe from whence they took their birth. Corn of ſeveral kinds grows wild in *Sicily*; and yet there is nothing of that ſort propagated in *England*, but muſt be fed by Dungs: ſurely our Farmers and Gardeners can't imagine that Dungs have any heat in them after they have loſt their fermentation; the Gardeners eſpecially may be ſure of this, becauſe by their common Experience, they find that after a Month or two all their hot Beds made of Dung have loſt their heat, and then become much colder than common Earth; and

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after this, if the Farmers uſe this Dung upon their Land, as they commonly practiſe, can they expect any heat or ferment from it to force their Plants forward? Dungs however, when they are rotted, ſo as to become fine as Earth, may help ſtiff Soils, as Sand or any light Bodies may do; and undoubtedly we find that vegetable Bodies, when they are ſo perfectly conſumed, as to become mere Earth, are then ſo long as they are untry'd, or unſown, full of nouriſhment proper for any Plant; ſo that then the uſe of Dung is not to be practiſed for the nouriſhment of Plants, till it can be brought to be like Earth it ſelf, and then it will do as much good as any fine untried Earth that one can get.

This is the beſt Month for Diſtilling of Cordial-Waters, and for drying of Herbs. Gather Elder-Flowers to dry, but take care to gather them in the heat of the Day, and dry them in the Shade.

It is now a Seaſon of the Year when the forward Graſs-Grounds and Meadows ſhould be mow'd for Hay; the beſt Judgment that can be made of the time, when Graſs ſhould be cut for Hay, is when we find the Graſs going to Seed, or that the Seed Stems are full grown.

Some Graſſes indeed are ſooner ripe than others, and there is no Field without mixture; but we muſt judge by the prevailing Graſs in the Field, and ſhould obſerve whether that is in Perfection, before we offer to mow our Meadow: we muſt examine too, whether our Graſs begins to turn yellow at the bottom, as well in the Blade as in the Stalk; for if it does, there muſt be no time loſt, for 'twill ſoon ſpoil all the reſt if it was to ſtand: and our next regard muſt be to the Weather, whether it is likely to be a wet or dry Seaſon, for on that depends our whole Succeſs. If the Weather ſeems to be ſettled fair, then we may cut our Graſs, according to the Rules of Reaſon; but if it has already been very dry for ſeveral Weeks before, and our Ground be dry by nature, with a gravelly bottom, then to cut our Graſs would do the whole a diskindneſs; for the Roots of the Graſs would be greatly weaken'd by the too great influence of the Sun, and hardly give us any other Crop the ſame year, and the Ground alſo would be ſubject to crack. Therefore where this is underſtood, I have found that to feed ſuch Graſs is much better than to mow it, even tho' it is grown to a pitch of ripeneſs; for while

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the Cattle are feeding upon it, there may likely come Rain ſufficient to enrich the Earth, ſo as to bring a good After-crop; the feeding will give opportunity to admit the Air and Sun gently to the Roots, without ſcorching them, and aſſiſt our Cattle at the ſame time in ſuch a manner, as would make them perhaps as much more valuable as the price of the Meat they fed upon would amount to; but we ſhall ſuppoſe, that every thing concurs for the mowing of Graſs. We muſt let our Graſs lie as thin as poſſible at the firſt, in the Day-time, if the Weather be fair, and againſt the Evenings make it up at firſt in ſmall Cocks, which muſt be ſpread ſoon in the Morning, if the fair Weather is likely to continue; but if the Weather inclines to Rain, let it remain in Cocks till it is fair. By degrees, in good Weather, as the Graſs grows dry, the Cocks may be enlarged, till at length the Hay is quite dry, and fit to carry into the Barn, or be made in Stacks or Ricks: but eſpecial regard muſt be had to the Dryneſs of the Hay before it be carry'd in; for if any Moiſture is remaining in it, it will be ſubject to Fermentation, and burn, even ſo as to take fire, and conſume all your Store. Many whole Crops have been

loſt by this means, ſo that a Farmer cannot be too careful in this particular.

The upland Graſs will be much ſooner made into Hay than the lowland Graſs; for the Graſs of the Uplands is generally fine and ſmall, and has few Juices in compariſon of the Low-land or Marſh Hay. So the Trefoils, Clovers, Saintfoine, Lucerne, and other *French* Graſſes, will take more time to dry, than any of the common Graſſes, becauſe thoſe abound in Juices. This is the Seaſon for mowing all the *French* Graſſes in the warmer parts of the Kingdom, but they defer it in ſome places till *June*.

About the end of the Month, thoſe Peaſe or *Spaniſh* Beans which were ſown early, will be fit to gather for eating green, and will bring good Profit in the Markets about *London*.

Weed Woad, Weld, Liquorice, Madder, and other laſting Crops.

In this Month you may expect your Pheaſants to hatch, which muſt then be put into a Box about four Foot long, thirteen Inches deep, and thirteen Inches wide, with a Partition for the Hen fourteen Inches from one End, divided from the other part of the Box by Paliſades

three

three or four Inches aſunder, for the going out of the young Pheaſants to feed; that Part aſſign'd for the Hen muſt be cloſe cover'd at top, and the Part of the Box where the Pheaſant-Poults are to feed, muſt only be cover'd with a Net to keep the Sparrows and other Birds from eating up the Meat. In this Box confine your Pheaſants for ten Days, giving them during that time the following Food: Collect from the Woods the black Horſe-Emits Eggs, or ſome of the red Emits Eggs; but the black Horſe-Emits are the beſt, provided the Emits themſelves are kill'd, for they will ſting the young Pheaſants, and make them neglect their Meat till they ſtarve. The way of killing theſe, is to put Earth, and Eggs, and Emits all together in a Barrel, ſo that the Barrel be not above half or three quarters full; then light ſome Brimſtone Rags and put into the Veſſel, and cover it cloſe up, now and then ſhaking it, while the ſmother of the Brimſtone remains; and when that is over, one may put ſome of the ſame Rags with Brimſtone a ſecond time into the Veſſel, that the live Emits may be deſtroy'd, or ſo much weaken'd, that we may eaſily kill them, or ſeparate them from the Eggs. When then we

have our Emits Eggs thus prepar'd, and the Emits kill'd, we may pick them clean from the Earth, and throw them into the feeding part of the Box, a few at a time, repeating it every half hour. But if you feed with the red Emits Eggs, which you may do the first three or four Days after hatching, you need not kill the Emits, for they will do the Pheasant-Poults no harm; but their Eggs are very small, and it is troublesome to get enough of them. Besides these Emits Eggs, they must have for the first six Days, while they are in the Box, a Paste made for them of Barley Flower, beat up with an Egg, Shell and all, without adding Water, or any Liquor to it. It must be of such a Consistence, that you may rub it between your Fingers into small Pellets, as big, and of the shape of the black Ant-Eggs; but make not these Pellets but just while you are feeding them, and when you find they will eat no more, fling them some Emits Eggs, which will create in them a fresh Appetite. During the first six Days that they are in the Box, give them some Milk in a shallow tin Pan, without any Water at all, taking care that the Milk does not turn sour. About the seventh Day, give them Milk and Water mix'd

in

in equal Quantities, and then make their Paſte of Milk and Barley-Flower, with ſome fine powder of Egg-ſhells in it, but none of the Egg itſelf. About the tenth Day remove them out of the Box, and ſet the Hen under a Coop upon a green Plat; making a Fence around the Coop about five Foot clear of it, and about a foot and a half high: this may be done with Boards or Wires, as you pleaſe. This Fence is to keep them from wandering too far from the Hen, before they are ſtrong enough to ſtruggle with Weeds, or other Inconveniencies, which they will be apt to meet with in their Progreſs. And now bring them to drink all Water, and make their Paſte of Barley-Meal, Water, and Egg-ſhells powder'd, not forgetting to give them Emits Eggs always after this feeding.

After their Confinement in this Pen upon the Graſs-Plat for a Week, that is, when they are about ſeventeen Days old, remove them upon a freſh green Plat, and give them liberty to run or fly where they pleaſe till *Michaelmas*: but they will not leave the Hen, unleſs frighted out of their knowledge by Dogs, *&c.* and then will ſoon be brought together by the Call of the Hen, or a Whiſtle,

Whiſtle, which we may uſe them to when we feed them. And now you may omit the trouble of killing or weakening the Emits, the Pheaſants being by this time a match for them; but give it not all over at once, but bring them to ſtruggle with theſe ſtinging Inſects by degrees, and continue feeding them as before, till there is new Corn, and then give them a little in the ear, and afterwards ſome Peaſe. This Method I had from Mr. *Brewer* of *Tunbridge* in *Wiltſhire*, a very curious Gentleman in all the pleaſant and profitable Branches belonging to a Country Life. The ſame Method may be uſed for the breeding of Partridges.

Continue to feed your Fiſh, as before directed, in order to tame them.

Continue ſtill to ſtore your Hare Warrens with Leverets.

Now is the time to raiſe Fawns, for they are dropt this Month, and may eaſily be brought up, by giving them New-Milk three or four times a day for a Fortnight, till they begin to take other Food.

Still take care to have houſed Lambs; and you may now likewiſe wean Lambs, for the Milk of the Ewes is uſed in ſome places for making of Cheeſe, being

ing mix'd with Cows Milk. This is the beſt Seaſon for making of Cheeſe to keep; the Cattle are now full of Milk; and 'tis likewiſe now a proper time for ſalting and putting up of Butter.

'Tis a proper Seaſon to weed Corn.

Turn milch'd Cattle, and ſuch as you deſign to feed, into freſh Paſture.

Still continue to drain Lands, and make Fiſh-Ponds. The Ways are now good for Carriages; therefore when the Teams are not otherwiſe engaged, bring home Wood for Fuel, or Timber; and carry your ſeveral Manures to proper places to be laid in heaps.

This is the Month to deſtroy Broom, by cutting it. So now alſo grub up ſuch Buſhes as annoy your Ground.

We may now turn Calves to graſs.

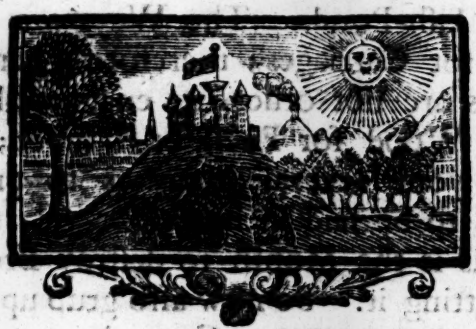
'Tis now a good time to deſtroy Fern, by mowing it.

In your artificial Warren, the Rabbits will chiefly ſubſiſt by green Food. Geld the young Buck Rabbits, and ſuffer no more than five young ones to live out of each Kindle.

We may, till the middle of this Month, ſow Buck-Wheat for Fodder; but 'tis better done in *April*.

Sow

Sow Peaſe for a latter Crop. Take care of your young Turkeys, that they are frequently fed, and are kept dry, and ſhelter'd in the Nights.



## *JUNE.*

# *JUNE.*

THE Weather this Month is commonly very hot and dry, unleſs we have weſterly Winds; and then we may expect cold Blaſts, which I have already given a reaſon for in my other Works. However, we are not to expect Rains of any duration; a Shower or two perhaps we may have; but 'tis uncertain.

This Month in the Inland-Countries is a buſy Time with the Hay-Makers, tho' in the warmer Parts of *England*, the Hay-Harveſt is commonly over by this time. In theſe late places begin with the *French* Graſſes, ſuch as Saint-foine, Clover, Lucern, &c. and end with the common Graſs; for as I obſerved in the

the former Month, the *French* Graſſes take a longer time to dry or make into Hay, than our common Graſs.

Now examine your Banks and Ditches in your Marſh or Fenny Grounds, and put them in repair, cleaning your Ditches and making good the Sluices and Dams. Take the Mud from Ponds or Moats, that it may dry and be fit to lay in an heap with your other Manure.

If your Teams are not now buſy in the Field, continue to carry Fuel and Timber, and get together ſuch Manures as may be wanting againſt the Winter.

Fallow Grounds may be now freſh turn'd with the Plow, to deſtroy the Weeds. So now likewiſe is a good time to break up Graſs-Grounds, they will be fit for ſowing in the Winter.

Continue to watch your Bees, for in ſome places you will have Swarms; to prevent their flying away, ſee the Directions in *April*.

Examine your Fields ſown with Muſtard-Seed, and if the Pods are full ſeeded, and the Seeds begin to turn colour, pull up the Plants and ſet them upright together, till the Seed is full ripe, and then thraſh it out as ſoon as may be.

The forward Peaſe will now be ripe in the warmer parts of the Country;

cut

cut them up, and when they are well dry'd, carry them home.

Cut again your Woad, if the Leaves are full grown, and keep it clean from Weeds.

Plow your Pea-Grounds, and ſow Turnips, which will come in early.

In wet and boggy Grounds lately broke up, ſow Cole-Seed or Rape.

This is the propereſt Month for planting of Saffron, therefore now ſecond plow the Ground you deſign'd for it, and make the Land as fine as poſſible: and as at this time of the Year the Roots are to be ſold in *Cambridgeſhire* in great plenty, one may there be ſtored with them at a ſmall expence. In the Education of this Plant I take the liberty to deny the Uſe of Dung, having in ſeveral Experiments found that Saffron will thrive much better without it, if you have a Soil tolerable light; and 'tis to no purpoſe to try it in ſtiff Ground: ſee my Reaſons for it in the preceding Month; and I ſhall here ſet down the Method of planting it. When your Ground is well plow'd and levell'd, make your firſt Line for Saffron with an Hough, whoſe Blade is four inches wide, ſo that the Furrow which is made by drawing that Hough along may be about five inches deep.

When

When this Furrow is made, plant your Saffron at the bottom, allowing between four and five Inches diſtance betwixt the Roots. Then draw another Furrow in like manner as before, cloſe by the ſide of the firſt, ſo that the bottom of it, where the Roots are to be planted, may be about five Inches from the Line of Roots in the firſt Furrow. By the opening of the ſecond Furrow, the Roots in the firſt will be cover'd with Earth; then plant the ſecond Furrow with Roots as you did the firſt, and make a third Furrow to be planted like the others: and ſo continue making Furrows and planting them, till you have made a Bed of about four foot wide; then leave a narrow Path about fourteen Inches, or, as ſome do, eighteen Inches wide, and begin afreſh to make Furrows, and plant as at firſt, till you have a ſecond Bed as wide as the firſt. And then leaving an Alley or Path as before, continue the Work in like manner, till the whole Piece is planted; and you may then lightly go over every Bed with a Rake. When this is done, take care that Cattel do not go over it, to trample it, or harden the Ground.

It is neceſſary when the Saffron is planted, to fence in the whole Piece with

with Hurdles, to defend it from the Hares, who will greatly annoy it when the Leaves or Flowers begin to appear above ground, which by no means muſt be ſuffer'd; for the cropping of the Leaves only, while they are growing, or till they decay of themſelves, will weaken the Roots to ſuch a degree, that they will not blow at all.

In a very hot Day waſh your Sheep for ſheering, which may be done the Day following, if the Weather be dry; but if the Weather prove cold and moiſt, defer the Sheep-ſheering a little longer, leſt your Sheep get the Rot by the too great Moiſture and Coldneſs of the Earth.

Continue ſtill to make Cheeſe; and you may yet ſalt and make up Butter for keeping, or tranſportation.

Look to your Hop-Grounds, keeping the Hills clean from Weeds, and tye up thoſe Wires or Binds which ramble; but take care that they are not bruiſed by tying, for our Hop-Vines are very brittle, and a ſmall Bruiſe will hurt them, which is the reaſon that ſome tye them with Worſted, and that they ſhould never be ſuffer'd to grow looſe from the Poles, for a little Wind will do them harm. In this weeding, it is not neceſ-

ſary to give any new Earth out of the Alleys to our Hop-hills; for if they are got to the top of the Poles, as they ought to be this Month, it is a ſign that they are vigorous enough, and ſhould rather be reſtrain'd than encourag'd: for too much Vigour in their ſhooting will prevent their bearing, as well as any other Plant that bears Fruit; for the Hop is the Fruit of the Plant. However, if your Wires or Binds are not ſtrong enough to reach the top of the Poles this Month, cut or pinch off the top Bud.

If the Seaſon is very hot and dry, and the Wires are not too luxuriant, water your Hops; and eſpecially when they begin to put out their Bells, water them well in a dry Seaſon; for when you once ſee the Flower appear, then 'tis no matter how much you encourage the Plants, for it will make the Hop large. It is recommended by an Artiſt in this way, to infuſe Sheep or Pidgeon's Dung in the Water that we uſe for the Nouriſhment of the Plants.

The Plantations of Hops, which you have made this Year, muſt be encouraged by all poſſible means, for the ſtronger they grow the firſt Year, the better will be their firſt Crop.

This

This Month your young Turkeys may run abroad with their Hens, for now they are paſt all danger.

The Rabbits in your artificial Warren, may ſtill have their greater ſhare of Food to conſiſt of Greens.

Fling ſome of your Mowings of fine Graſs into your Carp-Ponds, and continue to feed them at the fix'd Places, to keep them tame, and make them thrive.

Ponds or Moats may ſtill be made, as directed in the foregoing Months.

In this Month, Pidgeons in the Dove-Cots will lay for the ſecond Flight.

Now begins your great Harveſt for Cherries, and 'tis therefore neceſſary to keep a Boy continually in the Cherry-Orchards, to frighten the ſmall Birds or the Rooks that would deſtroy them: but Cherry-Orchards are not of the ſame Value remote from *London*, as they are near *London*, and eſpecially they ſhould be near Water-carriage. However, there is one thing to be obſerv'd, that where there are many of them together, and a few of them happen to be earlier than the reſt, I am perſuaded that the Owners of the latter Orchards, may make much more Advantage of theirs, if they kept their Cherries ungather'd till there was

Scarcity in the Markets, for late Fruits, as well as early Fruits, ſell well; nay, I have known in the Affair of Peaſe and Beans, thoſe which have come at the end of the Year have ſold for more Money than the firſt Crops; for our Farmers commonly ſow all together, and ſo have their Crops come in all together; and the Conſequence is, the Markets are glutted, and they all ſuffer. But a Farmer, who has Wit enough to ſow ſuch Crops out of Seaſon, will come to the Market alone, and may get a good Price. But this Month the ſowing of Beans and Peaſe is rather of the lateſt, except till about the tenth Day, and then I ſhould chuſe the Hotſpur-Pea rather than any other, or the ſecond Dwarf-Pea, which will ſooneſt come to bear; and of the Beans, the *Spaniſh* or *Portugal* Bean, which Mr. *Thomas Fowler*, now Gardener to Sir *Nathaniel Gould* at *Stoke-Newington*, has try'd, for a late Crop, and aſſures me has brought a much more plentiful Crop, than the broad Bean. And it is plain, that theſe ſorts will bear much ſooner from the Seed, and are what we ſow very early in the Year, than the larger kinds of Beans and Peaſe, which we generally ſow in *March* and *April*; for theſe laſt, in a very dry Seaſon, run

all

all up in Haulm, and therefore if they are ſown late, will come to little or nothing.

If ſudden Guſts of Wind with Showers happen this Month, the Corn is often laid in ſome places, which makes the Expence of reaping and mowing about half as much more as it would be if it was upright; but if this happens in one place, it is not every where: and yet the Price of Corn is generally raiſed at this time of Year, upon pretence that the Corn has been beat down by Showers: But there is a much better reaſon than that might be given, which is, that at this ſeaſon the Farmer is crowded with Expences, either in his Hay-Harveſt, in which he is oblig'd to employ a great Number of People, which he muſt pay ready Money to; or elſe he is oblig'd to raiſe Money for his Corn-Harveſt, which muſt take up and employ all the Hands he can get, and whom he muſt pay likewiſe Money to as ſoon as they have done their Work: ſo that I think in letting of Eſtates to farm, *Midſummer* ſhould not be one of the Pay-days to the Landlord, becauſe generally 'tis the Farmer's moſt expenſive Time; and with ſome Farmers, all the ready Money they can raiſe will barely do, to get in their Crops.

The Pheaſants hatched the beginning of the laſt Month, will now grow pretty ſtrong, and may be ſuffer'd to run with the Hen. See the Directions for breeding them in *May*. We may with a little care make them come to any Call as well as Partridges, which I have bred to that familiarity, that they have follow'd me wherever I ſuffer'd them to go.

It is now the time for young Partridges in the Fields; but they are ſmall, and ſhould not yet be diſturb'd.

The Fawns of laſt Month will now eat almoſt any thing, and may be brought to any tameneſs. I once bred up a Leaſh, and made them ſo familiar with my Greyhounds, that for ſeveral Months in the courſing Seaſon they uſed to run with the Dogs. I only produce it as an Inſtance, how eaſy it is to make any wild Creature tame and familiar, to ſuch as may think ſuch an Undertaking may be agreeable to them, for there are many Gentlemen who are Farmers; and I am perſuaded, that the more engaging that Buſineſs can be made, the more Pleaſure the Farmers will take; who ought, I think, to have ſome Pleaſure intermix'd with their hard Labour. But the Fawns, if they are fed with

with Oats about *Michaelmas* for three Weeks, or at any time afterwards, if we design to kill them, will grow very fat, and pay very well for their keeping.

## JULY.

F 4 *JULY.*

# *JULY.*

THIS Month is generally very hot, but ſometimes attended with Storms of Hail and Rain, which beat off the Apples, *&c.* and often lay the Corn; but theſe laſt not long.

In ſome places, tho' in very few, the Hay-Harveſt is not yet over; and in ſome forward Grounds, where the Hay was cut about the End of *April*, there will be now a ſecond Crop, if there have been Showers in *May*, and the foregoing Month. The neceſſary Obſervations for making of Hay, ſee in the Month of *May*. I hold, it will be much better for the Graſs of any Meadow, to cut but one Crop in a year, and feed the reſt; for often cutting weakens the Graſs.

Now

Now comes in your full Crop of Broad-Beans and Kidney Beans for eating; but the Broad Beans will not be fit to gather for Seed till the End of the next Month, and the Kidney Beans about the End of *September*.

About the End, draw your earlieſt Hemp and Flax in dry Weather, and ſet it to dry well, before you carry it home. When the Seed of the Flax turns downward, it is a ſign the Flax is fit to pull.

Sow Turnips upon light Land, without Dung, the firſt Fortnight in this Month: but after that time, it will be too late for them to apple well, or make large Roots before Winter.

Now alſo is a good time to ſow Cole and Rape-Seed in ſuch Lands as are lately recover'd from the Waters.

In this Month your Carraway-Seed will be ripe, and muſt be carefully cut in dry Weather, and the Ground clean'd from Weeds; for this Crop will bear two or three Years ſucceſſively.

About the End, your Coriander-Seed will be ripe, and ſhould be gathered in dry Weather.

About the End of this Month, your Hops will begin to be in Bell or Bloſſom; and then keep them well water'd, to prevent the Mildew; and alſo pare the Alleys,

Alleys, and fling up the Earth upon the Hills. Clean likewiſe your Hop-Hill from Weeds, and lay them in heaps. Some adviſe alſo to ſtrip the Leaves from the Binds of the Hops about two or three foot from the ground, that the Air may paſs among them with more freedom.

This Month is alſo a good Seaſon for planting of Saffron: See how that Work is perform'd in the preceding Month.

If the Weather is ſubject to Wet, take care to houſe your Pheaſant-Poults every night about an hour before Sun-ſet, and let them out again early in the Morning. If you have a place well fenced for them with a Wall or high Pale, let ſome part of it be planted or ſown with *French* Furze, for that is the beſt Shelter for them.

Now mind your common Poultry, ſetting all thoſe Hens, that are inclined to it; for Chickens hatch'd in *Auguſt* will ſell well about *Chriſtmas*.

Now begins the Corn-Harveſt in the forward Countries, when fair Weather is to be wiſh'd for, that the Corn may be thoroughly dry before it be houſed; or elſe it will be in danger of heating, and of growing muſty.

If the Weather proves very wet, as it did in the laſt Year 1725, it is adviſable

to

to cut the Ears of the Corn, if it is full ripe, and carry them into your Barn clean ſwept, and ſpread them thin on the Floor, keeping them often turning, and give them often as much Air as poſſible; and upon every opportunity of Sun-ſhine to ſpread them upon Sail-cloaths, and bring them abroad till they are quite dry. In the laſt bad Year, ſome who follow'd my Advice in this particular, ſaved a great deal of Corn, which otherwiſe would have been loſt; but this need not be done but when there is a proſpect of continued Rains: the Straw may be cut afterward.

Weed your Madder, Woad and Liquorice.

Give your Turnips ſown laſt Month their firſt houghing, with an Hough whoſe Blade is four Inches wide: and alſo hough your Carrots and Parſnips, that were ſown in the Spring.

If the Weather be dry, cut your Pea-haulm, and draw ſuch Beans whoſe Seed is ripe, binding up the Beans in Bundles.

Water ſuch Peaſe as were ſown for latter Crops, which may be eaſily done with a Barrow and Water-Tub that has a Spout with a Roſe at the end, like that of a Watering-Pot: This a Man may wheel between the Drills of Peaſe without

out hurting them, and the Crop will pay very well for the Labour.

Now examine your Weld or Dyers Weed, for the Seed is commonly ripe about the end of the Month, which is the time to gather it: the way to do which, is to gather it, or pull it up, and bind it in little Sheaves to be ſet up for drying; but it muſt be done carefully, for fear of ſhedding the Seed. When it is thoroughly dry, carry it home, and thraſh out the Seed immediately, and the Herb is then fit for the Dyers uſe. It muſt be kept very dry, for a little wet will ſpoil it.

In this Month your Cole-Seed is commonly ripe enough to cut, which you may know by opening a Pod or two; and if the Seeds are full grown, and begin to change to a brown colour, you may then reap it, laying ſmall parcels of it together to dry, which will commonly take up about fifteen days. When you perceive it is dry enough, gather it carefully in large Sheets, and carry it to the Barn, to be thraſh'd immediately; for the Seed is very apt to ſhed, when it is full ripe.

Continue ſtill to make Ponds, and drain Lands, or repair Banks that have been damaged in fenny places.

When

When the Teams are not employ'd in the Field, carry Wood for Timber or Fuel, and continue to collect Manures for your Land againſt the Winter Seed-time.

Cut Turf, Peat, and *French* Furze for Winter Firing. Freſh plow your Fallows, which will deſtroy Weeds, and mellow the Ground.

Towards the End, turn your Geeſe into the Stubble, and take Partridges to put into the Mew: You may now eaſily tame them.

About the End, put up ſome Swine to fatten for Porkers, to be ready about *Bartholomew*-Tide.

Now look after your Bees, and help them to kill the Drones, Waſps, or other Inſects that annoy them.

Deſtroy Waſp-Neſts by burning them, or ſmothering them, by putting lighted Brimſtone Rags into their Holes, and ſtopping them up.

Continue to feed your Pond-Fiſh, as directed in the preceding Months.

The greateſt ſhare of your Food for Rabbits in your Artificial Warren, may ſtill be Green Meat.

You may now expect a Flight of Pidgeons from your Dove-Cott.

This

This is the Seaſon for Floppers, that is, for the young Wild-Ducks, to take wing.

Now cut your Tills or Lentils, and alſo your Tares and Vetches will be ripe about this time, and fit for cutting; but let them be very well dry'd before they be carry'd home.

The Heat of the Seaſon now makes that Receipt very uſeful, which I have mentioned in *January*, concerning the preſerving of Fowls.

Continue ſtill watching your Cherry-Orchards, to keep away Rooks and other Birds from deſtroying your Fruit; for your Cherries which are yet upon the Trees, are of great worth.

Take great care to air your Granaries, if you have any great ſtore of thraſh'd Corn by you; and if your Corn happens to be annoy'd by the Weule or Wevle, lay ſome Sprigs or Branches of the *Parietaria*, or Pellitory of the Wall, upon your Grain, and it will deſtroy them.

In the Dairy ſtill continue to make Cheeſe and Butter for Winter-Uſe, while you can have the pure Graſs-Milk.

In this Month your Geeſe will begin to moult, and it is then the time of pulling off their Feathers; which is practiſed in

in *Lincolnſhire*, and other fenny Countries, to great advantage.

This is the proper Month for making Gooſeberry and Currant Wines; which, with a little keeping, will become very ſtrong and mellow.

## *AUGUST.*

# *AUGUST.*

THE Weather in the firſt part of this Month, is generally very hot and dry; but towards the end, the Evenings and Mornings grow cool, and our firſt Rains generally begin.

This Month is a very buſy time with the Farmers, the Corn-Harveſt being in its greateſt height now almoſt every where.

Barley is known to be ripe firſt, by the Straws becoming yellow, ſo that no part of it be of a greeniſh Colour; and, ſecondly, by the hardneſs of the Grain; and, thirdly, by the hanging down of the Ear: 'tis then time to mow it, if the Weather be fair. The Grain of Barley is not very apt to ſhed, and therefore may lie three or four Days in the

the Swarth after 'tis cut, turning it now and then, that the Weeds in it may dry the better; for if the Weeds are not thoroughly dry, then in putting it up, the Barley will mow-burn: but when we perceive it to be pretty dry in the Swarth, we muſt firſt cock it in the Field for two or three Days before we carry it home, which ſhould always be in dry Weather, for it will bear Wet in the Field the worſt of any Corn, becauſe it is very apt to ſprout.

Wheat is ripe when the Straw is yellow, the Grain hard, and the Ears hang down, then it muſt be cut and bound into Sheaves; if it be very weedy, then the Sheaves may be the ſmaller; and if wet Weather ſhould be likely to attend the reaping of your Wheat, ſet three or four Sheaves againſt three or four others, and thatch them with two open Sheaves laid over the top till the whole is thoroughly dry. When you make your Mow or Stack of Corn, guard againſt the Rats and other Vermin, by raiſing the Foundation of your Stacks or Mows above ground, and ſecuring the Pedeſtals by Pans of Water, or elſe have every Stack encompaſs'd with Water; but there is nothing like a Barn and a few good Cats, to preſerve your Corn

from being injur'd by the Weather, or deſtroy'd by Vermin. Wheat, if it be thatch'd in the manner I ſpeak of, will take no harm if it was to remain in the Field five or ſix Weeks after it was cut; ſo that there is time enough to expect good Weather for drying it.

The four and ſix-row'd Barley will be ripe at this Seaſon; the Hardneſs of the Grain, and the Yellowneſs of the Straw, are Demonſtrations of their Ripeneſs.

In ſome forward Places, Rye will be ripe this Month, which you may know by the Yellowneſs of the Straw, and the other Marks above-mention'd, which demonſtrate the Ripeneſs of other Grain. The Corn does not eaſily ſhed, and for that reaſon you may let it lie upon the Ground a few days after it is cut before you bind it, if it happens to be full of Weeds, that the Weeds may be thoroughly dry: but 'tis a Grain that eaſily ſprouts in the Ear, if the Weather happens to be wet; ſo that in rainy Weather, it ſhould be often turn'd while it lies upon the Ground.

If Oats are now ripe, we muſt mow them immediately, for they are apt to ſhed their Grain very ſoon. Beſides, the common Tokens of Ripeneſs in other Corns,

Corns, which I have already taken notice of, the Husk or Chaff of the Oat will open, and diſcover the Seed. It is a common Practice to let them lie a few days in the Field to plump, which the Dews will do, or a little Rain: but chiefly it is to be wiſh'd, that we can ſuffer them to lie in the Field till the Weeds are quite dry; for elſe the Weeds in them being put up moiſt in Stacks or in the Barn, will give the Oats the Muſt, or mow-burn them.

In the feeding or fattening of Cattle, it is to be obſerv'd, that if you give them freſh and deep Paſture regularly, they will ſoon be fat, and fit for ſale: let them not ſtay too long in one Ground, for if they want, they will loſe more Fleſh in one day, than they can recover in three; nor is there any certain Rule how long time Cattle require in feeding Grounds to be fat; ſome will take three Months, others two, and ſome will be fat in ſix Weeks. The Seaſon is the chief with regard to feeding; if that be favourable, Cattle may be fed much ſooner than if it was dry, and the Graſs huskey and dry. And again, the ſort of Graſs is to be conſider'd; the Clovers, or moſt of the *French* Graſſes, will fatten Cattle very quickly,

and next to them the Marſh Land; and they will be longeſt fattening in the common Graſs, and ſhould, as I obſerv'd above, be often ſhifted. A prudent Farmer will ſoon ſee the Alteration in his Cattle, and by their appearance will beſt know when to ſell them off; which he may ever do at pleaſure, becauſe there is always a Demand for them in the *Britiſh* Nation, where, I ſuppoſe, there is more Fleſh eaten than in all *Europe* beſides: ſo that when he obſerves, that his Cattle are fit for the Markets, he is ſure of Money for them.

Now you may again cut your Woad, if the Leaf is full grown, and take care to weed it at the ſame time, if you ſee that Work is neceſſary.

Sometimes your Carroway and Coriander Seed is not ripe till this Month, then cut it as directed in the preceding.

Gather ſuch Flax as is now ripe, and tie it in little Bundles to dry.

If your Rape or Cole-Seed was not ripe in the foregoing Month, now take care of it, for it is apt to ſhed if it be too ripe. See the Directions in the preceding Month, for the ordering of it.

Now

Now ſecond hough your Turnips that were ſown in *June*, and give the firſt houghing to the Turnips ſown in the laſt Month, for without theſe Houghings you muſt expect but an indifferent Crop; for if they grow too cloſe together, they will run into leaf, and the Roots then will come to nothing. And if two Plants ſhould grow cloſe to one another, they will both be ſpoil'd; therefore keep all your Plants ſingle, and the Leaves will be ſhort, and the Roots large.

If you have very light ſandy Lands, you may ſow Turnips upon them in this Month to grow without houghing; for theſe will make an extraordinary Manure for your Land, to be pull'd up when they are full grown; and when they begin to rot, ſhould be plough'd in. This will greatly ſtrengthen your ſandy Land.

About the end, ſuch of your Buck-Wheat as was ſown early will be ripe; it ſhould then be mown, and lie in the Field till the Stalks are well dry'd. It will bear Wet better than any other ſort of Grain, and there is no danger of the Seed's ſhedding.

It makes very good Fodder for Cattle, and the Grain is excellent for feeding of Poultry, and fattening of Hogs.

At this time your Spurry Seed will be ripe, and ſhould then be cut; it will ſoon dry, the Seed is very good Food for Fowls; we may alſo ſow it this Month. Now alſo Canary Seed will be fit to cut; it muſt be carry'd in very dry.

About the end your Hops will be fit to gather, but you muſt chuſe dry Weather for that Work, and obſerve, that the Hops be full ripe, which you may know by their turning ſomewhat brown, and by their being eaſily pull'd in pieces; but the pleaſant Smell they then yield, is as ſure a Token as the reſt, of the Ripeneſs of the Hop, and the Seeds will then be of a brown Colour.

In the gathering of Hops, we muſt employ two Setts of People; one ſort muſt cut the Vines about two or three Foot above the Root, and pull up the Poles with the Hops on them, to be carry'd to the Pickers: and the others are thoſe who are appointed to pick the Hops. Theſe laſt muſt be very careful to pick the Hops clean, without any Stalks or Leaves among them. The common way is, to provide a Frame of ſtrong Wood of nine Foot long, and about four Foot wide, and about three Foot high from the Ground, upon which ſhould be faſtned with Hooks a piece of

coarſe

coarſe Cloth to hang hollow in the Frame. About one of theſe Frames may ſtand ſix Pickers, and there may be ſeveral of theſe in a large Hop-Ground, becauſe of getting the Work over quickly, for wet Weather at this time will damage the Hop; ſo in caſe of a Shower, while the Hops are picking, the Cloth which the Hops are pick'd into, muſt be immediately unhook'd, and laid over them, that no Wet get at them: and then the Hops ſhould be ſpread on ſome clean place, which is cool and dry, to prevent their heating, which would ſpoil their Colour: in this ſtate they may lie till they are carry'd to be dry'd upon the Kiln. Never begin to gather your Hops till the Dew is off them, nor after Rain, till they are quite dry.

In the drying them, you muſt obſerve, that your Kiln be free from Smoak; and if it be good, one may dry a Kiln of Hops in about twelve Hours, but it muſt be Judgment that will beſt diſcover when they are enough, for ſometimes the Slowneſs or Quickneſs of the Fire will alter the time of drying; and ſome Kilns, if the Fire could be conſtant, will be longer drying of Hops than others. The way is to ſpread the Hops about eight Inches thick upon an Hair-

Cloth, and lay them ſmooth and as equal as may be with a Rake, taking care that they do not ſcatter at the Edges: the Heat under them muſt be moderate, and as regular as may be, leſt you over-dry them; and you may beſt judge when the under-ſide is enough, and that the Hops ſhould be turn'd, by ſtriking them with a Stick, for then they will be criſp at the top in every place, and will jump up. It will then be beſt to lower your Fire, for if you turn them while they ſweat, they will be apt to ſcorch. The way of turning them is to fling them up in an heap in the middle of the Kiln with a fine Shovel, and then ſpread them again upon the Hair-Cloth as level as poſſible, renewing your Fire immediately after they are ſpread, and continue it as regular as may be till they are dry'd enough; which you may know by ſtirring them with a Stick, and they will rattle and fly if they are thoroughly dry'd; which, if that happens, withdraw your Fire immediately, and remove your Hops to a cloſe Room, to lie there in an heap till they are fit to bag.

About the end of this Month, your Partridges and Pheaſants will be ſtrong enough to pinion, if you do not deſign

to

to let them fly, tho' ſome content themſelves with pulling the flight Feathers out of one Wing; but they are ſoon renew'd, and we may happen to neglect the pulling their Wings, when there is freſh occaſion, and loſe them. But the pinioning them is a ſure way to keep them from ever flying. The Method of doing which I learnt from Mr. *Brewer* of *Tunbridge*, the curious Gentleman whom I have mentioned before concerning the breeding of Pheaſants; he preſcribes, that we pick the Feathers clean all round the firſt Joint of one Wing, and then take a ſtrong Thread and knit hard enough round the place a little below the Joint, to ſtop the Bleeding when we cut off the Pinion, which muſt be done with a very ſharp Knife. When this Operation is over, turn them looſe; but watch them for an Hour, to obſerve whether they do not bleed; which, if they ſhould happen to do, ſear the Wound with a red-hot Tobacco-pipe.

Continue to feed your Fiſh that you would keep tame, and ſtill ſerve your Rabbit-Warren with Greens, as in the former Month.

Geeſe may be now turn'd into your Stubbles, they will ſoon be fit for the Markets.

The

The Barn-door this Month will greatly help your Poultry, and make them ſoon fit for the Markets; a little Cramming afterwards will make them very fat, always remembring to put Brick duſt in their Water when you put them up to fatten, as directed in the Month of *January*.

Now geld ſuch Lambs as you deſign to feed.

In this Month you may mow all your *French* Graſſes, ſuch as Saintfoine, Clovers, Lucern, *&c.*

You may now, if your Teams are not too much employ'd, plough up your Fallows the third time, eſpecially if the Land is ſtubborn; for the chief end of fallowing Ground, is, to break its ſtubbornneſs, and render it fine, and to kill the Weeds, which Summer-fallowing is good for; tho' the common Notion is, that the Ground reſts while it lies fallow, and is therefore made more fit for the Production of Corn, by lying a Seaſon or two without a Crop. But here I beg leave to ask the Farmer a Queſtion: When we fallow Ground, will it not bear Weeds, and do not thoſe Weeds draw Nouriſhment from this Ground, and then what Benefit does he imagine to himſelf from ſuch fallowing?

But

But then he will tell me, that he deſtroys the Weeds in ſuch Land as he twy and trifallows; or, in other terms, plows up three times without ſowing upon it. The deſtroying of the Weeds may, I allow, be a means of making the Crop, which we deſign to ſow upon ſuch Land, grow more luxuriant, becauſe where a Crop is crowded with Weeds, the Crop is ſtifled for want of Air, or, as the old Expreſſion is, the Crop is choak'd by the Weeds: but as for the Weeds robbing the Crop of the Nouriſhment which the Earth would give it, 'tis as contrary to Reaſon, as to ſuppoſe that a Dog and an Horſe to be fed in the ſame Room together, would rob one another of their Victuals, when the Meat of one is Bones or Fleſh, and the other Hay and Oats. Juſt ſo is it with Vegetables, one ſort draws one Food from the Earth, and another, another ſort; and 'tis generally the want of this Thought that makes our Farmers wear out their Ground, as they call it: they ſow all the ſorts of Corn in a ſucceſſion, every one of which draws nearly the ſame Nouriſhment, or requires the ſame Diet as an Horſe, a Cow, and ſuch Creatures, who all feed upon Graſs or Hay. Surely then to have theſe Creatures

tures continually in a Field, their Food would be wanting in time, and the Field muſt reſt for a few Weeks before it could produce any more Food for them; but 'tis Graſs only that they eat perhaps, and the Thiſtles ſtill remain, beſides ſome other Herbs which a Mule or an Aſs will eat; and when they have done, the Swine, the Geeſe, and other Creatures will ſtill find ſomething that is convenient for their Nouriſhment. So I repeat, that the beſt way of reſting of Ground, is, to ſow it time after time with ſuch things as draw different Nouriſhments; for while one ſort is growing, it only draws its own Nouriſhment, without diſturbing the other Virtues of the Earth; and then another Plant of a different Nature coming afterwards, draws another Nouriſhment, and ſo on; and in the mean time the Earth has frequent ſtirring by the Plough and Harrow, which gives it opportunity of imbibing from the Air and Showers, ſuch Virtues as are of the ſame ſort as it had loſt before; and eſpecially in ſtiff Land frequent ploughing is of ſervice in breaking its parts, and, as one may ſay, unlocking thoſe parts where a great ſhare of Nouriſhment of ſeveral kinds had been long confined. So that upon the whole,

whole, the chief Benefit by Fallowing is often expoſing the Earth to the Air, and rendring its Parts fine, and not drawing too much of any particular Nouriſhment out of it, by overſtocking of it with the ſame ſort of Vegetable.

If the Farmer depends much upon his Dairy, he ſhould obſerve which Cows are growing low in Milk, and ſell them off for freſh Cattle.

Such as have tame Partridges, may now teach young Pointers or Setting-Dogs; they will be more ſtanch to their Game than any that are broke in the Field at Pairing-time, becauſe thoſe that are broke in the Field, croſs their Game, and will be apt to miſtake them, frequently ſetting or pointing at a Lark, or ſome other ſmall Bird.

If there is any ſpare time with the Teams, ſtill bring home Manures of all ſorts, ſuch as are binding for the ſandy and light Lands, and ſuch as are light and open in their parts for ſtiff and heavy Ground.

If you have now any Peaſe that are ripe, reap them; and after they are well dry'd, carry them home in a dry Day. You may alſo now draw your broad Bean-Stalks, if the Beans are ripe, and make them up into Bundles to dry. They

ſhould

ſhould ſtand in the Field, if the Weather will permit, for ſeveral days, till all the Moiſture is out of them, and be threſh'd ſoon after they are carry'd home; for I have known ſome Stacks of theſe Beans, as well as of the *Spaniſh* Bean, that have rotted and muſted in the Cods, by being put up before they were quite dry. When they are threſh'd, and put in the Granary, let them be frequently turn'd the firſt ſix Weeks after they are laid up; and ſo ought all new-threſh'd Seeds and Grain to be ſerv'd, and ſifted twice the firſt Week, or five times the firſt Fortnight, which will occaſion them to dry well, and make them keep without hazard.

At ſpare times, if the Teams are not too much engaged in the Field, fetch home Turfs, Peat, Coal, Wood and Furze, or Whins or Gorze, for Firing in the Winter, and what Timber you judge may be fit for your Uſe in the Winter: for now the Ways are good, and there is not the Wear and Tear for the Horſes or Oxen, that there would be when the Rains have fallen. However, where Turnpikes are appointed, the Ways are ſo much mended, that I am perſuaded the Cattle do their work with half the trouble, and thrive better upon their Feed,

than

than they did before the repairing of the Roads: and beſides, where the Roads are good, fewer Cattle will do, to carry the Farmers Goods to Market, than were uſed before, when the Roads were deep and uneven. So that one may make three Teams out of two, and gain one third advantage in the Labour of the Cattle.

We may yet plant Saffron-Roots, for the Leaves of it do not yet appear; but it is full late for that Work: for to give the Roots ſtrength, we ſhould let them be in the ground at leaſt two Months before it is their growing time, that the Earth may ſettle cloſe about them. See the Directions for planting of Saffron in the Months *June* and *July*.

If the Weather be fair, cut your Teaſels, and tye them in Bundles, ſetting them in the Sun to dry: but if the Weather prove wet, ſet them to dry in ſome place of Shelter. Theſe are of great uſe in ſuch places where the Woollen Manufacture is encouraged, but otherwiſe are not worth cultivating.

The Weld or Dyers Weed, which was ſown with Corn this Year, muſt, as ſoon as the Corn is cut, be well weeded, that it may bring a good Crop the Summer following.

It

It is now the time to draw or pull up your Onions, letting them lie upon the ground ſeveral days expoſed to the Sun, till the green Stalks are decay'd and dry; and then, if you have a Kiln to dry them upon, they will keep the better. The *Spaniſh* Onions are the beſt for preſent Uſe, and the *Strasburgh* Onions for keeping. Be ſure let your Onions be carry'd into the Houſe when they are quite dry.

At this time weed your Madder and Liquorice Grounds.

Weed your Saffron Grounds this Month, for the Saffron will receive injury if we were to diſturb it in *September*, for then it will be in its full bloom.

Now, if your Hives are full, take the Honey; which ſome do, by ſtifling the Bees: but I think the beſt way is to keep our Bees in Box-Hives, ſo that one may ſet ſeveral upon one another, as one ſees occaſion. For if we have our Boxes made with a Pannel of Glaſs at the back part, we may ſee when the Bees want room, and ſo place a freſh Box underneath the full Box: for the top of each Box has a ſquare hole about eight or nine Inches over, and a piece of Tin Plate made to ſlide in Grooves, to ſhut it cloſe at pleaſure; but the Tin Plate muſt be drawn back

back when we ſet the freſh Box under the full Box, and the Hole on the top of the freſh Box being open, the Bees will ſoon work down into it, and fill it, if they are in a Country where there are Flowers enough. It is reported by People of good Credit, that in ſome parts of *Germany* the People carry their Hives of Bees ſeveral miles to feed. But the way of taking the Honey in theſe Boxes, is, when we find the upper Box and lower Box full, to ſpread a Sheet before the Front of the Hive, faſtening it with a Hook or two cloſe to the Hive's or Box's mouth, ſo that the Bees may walk eaſily out of the Hive upon the Sheet; and then faſten the Corners of the Sheet, which are moſt remote from the Hive, to ſome wooden Pins which are ſtuck into the ground, ſo that the Sheet will then be ſpread open to its full extent, and be out of danger of being ruffled, if there ſhould happen any Air. But this Work ſhould be done in a ſtill hot Day, about three or four a-clock in the Afternoon; for then the Bees are at work in the lower Box. You muſt then with a Mallet ſtrike the Tin Plate at the back of the Box a ſharp ſtroke, ſo as to drive it quite home, that it may cut off the Communication between the upper and lower Box; and

then turn the upper Box bottom upwards, and clap a Cloth over it, and remove it as quick as poſſible to the Houſe, leſt the Bees follow you; and then be ſure to ſet it in ſuch a place where the Bees cannot get in: for if it is an open place, where the Bees can come at it, they will ſoon carry it away. The Man who performs this Operation, will ſave himſelf beſt from the Bees, if he has no Hair on his Head, and that his Head be rubb'd with Vinegar: but if he ſhould happen to be ſtung, he may apply a Copper Halfpenny to the wounded part, and holding it there for a Minute or two, it will prevent the Swelling, or any After-pain. But it very rarely happens, that the Perſon is ſtung in this way of taking of Bees, becauſe he does his work in the back of the Bee-houſe, where the Bees do not ſee him. In the mean time, the Bees come all out of the Box-hive, which is left, and ſpread themſelves upon the Sheet, and divide into Troops in a moſt ſurprizing Order, ſeemingly obſerving the Motions of the Queen-Bee, who has a long Alley left for her to walk in, from the mouth of the Hive to the bottom of the Sheet; and as ſhe bends her courſe towards the mouth of the Hive, ſo the ſeveral Troops march towards the ſame place,

place, but immediately ſtop when ſhe ſtops; and if ſhe return, ſo they all return to their firſt Stations. I have obſerv'd the Queen-Bee on this occaſion make ſeveral Motions towards the Hive's mouth before ſhe went in, and as often did her Attendants make the ſame Motions, till at length, when ſhe went into the Hive, all the reſt follow'd. But it is impoſſible to expreſs all the ſurprizing Phenomena which may be obſerved in a Colony of Bees; who, beſides the great Advantage they bring us, afford us more Entertainment and noble Cauſe of Speculation, than any Creature upon Earth.

By the Opportunity we have of looking into theſe Box-hives through the Glaſſes, we may always be able to judge whether the Swarm is ſtrong or weak, and what quantity of Honey we may venture to take, for we muſt always leave enough for the Bees; and we may alſo put a freſh Box under the Box that we leave, about three days after we have taken the Honey. And if our Bees lie near a Heath, or any place where are Furzes, or Gorze, or Whins, they will ſoon fill the lower Box, and provide ſtore of Food to maintain them in the Winter; ſo that then they need not be fed, as weak Stocks

muſt be when the Weather comes to be cold.

You ſhould now watch your Bees, to prevent their Battles, which frequently happen in this Month, and can only be prevented by firing a Gun or two when they are fighting in the Air, which will make them ſettle and ſeparate, each Army taking a different Poſt; and then muſt be watch'd, leſt they engage again, and then muſt be parted as before, or elſe 'tis ten to one but one of the Colonies is deſtroy'd; for their Battles are ſo bloody, that I have ſeen near half a Peck of Bees lie dead in a Battle of a quarter of an hour: but have ſince prevented the deadly Iſſue of ſuch Wars, by the Method here propoſed. It is to be obſerv'd, that theſe Battles never happen between Bees of the ſame Colony, but between Hives of different Colonies: ſo that when one has a mind to furniſh an Apiary with Bees, it will be beſt to chuſe all our Stocks of the ſame Breed, and not have any ſtrange Swarm among them.

Now gather ſuch Fruit in your Orchards as are ripe, and carry them to Market, for ſuch as are now ripe will not keep.

If you have any great Store of Codlins, and they prove low prized at the Markets, make them into Cyder, which will ſoon be fit for drinking, and be much ſtronger than the Cyders made of any other Apples, as I am inform'd.

Examine your Cheeſe-Loft, and turn your Cheeſes, rubbing them well with a dry Cloth; and if you find them infeſted with Mites, cut them out, and fill up the Holes with fine Powder of Chalk, taking care that you leave none of the Mites upon the Shelves. This ſhould be done once or twice in every hot Month.

This is a good Seaſon for making Elder Wine; and as I think that all our *Engliſh* Wines ſhould be encouraged, becauſe they are wholeſome, and will come at a little Expence; I ſhall ſhortly publiſh the Receipts to make them, as well as ſuch other Receipts as may prove beneficial in a Farm-houſe, and what is neceſſary to be done every Month by the Miſtreſs of a Farm; which I have been a long while ſollicited to do, and have already receiv'd many curious Receipts from ſeveral Country Ladies, towards compiling ſuch a Work, and

ſtill ſhall be obliged to ſuch as will favour me with any thing curious on thoſe Subjects: for a Farmer of three or four hundred Pounds a Year may have every thing about him, and live as elegantly as a Gentleman of eight hundred Pounds a Year, if he does but know the uſe that may be made of every thing under his care. And I am the more encouraged to publiſh the Piece I mention, becauſe the Great *Xenophon* has given us a Piece concerning Oeconomy, which yet has not been made familiar to the Country Ladies, and which I propoſe to publiſh along with it.

You may now begin to kill your firſt Hogs for Pork.

The Rabbits in your artificial Warren that are full grown, are now whole skin'd, that is, their Fur is full grown; and therefore ſuch Skins are now worth five Shillings a Dozen at the firſt hand, if they are of the common grey wild Kind; or if they are of the white or black Kind, about ſix or ſeven Shillings a Dozen; but of the ſilver-hair'd Rabbit, about twenty-pence *per* Skin.

Sow Carrots to ſtand the Winter; they be what are call'd *Michael-*

*mas*

*mas* Carrots, though ſown at this time.

Fold Sheep upon ſuch Fields as you deſign to ſow with Wheat.

# *SEPTEMBER.*

IN this Month the Sun is commonly very hot, which ripens our Fruits; but if this Month proves rainy, it is of bad Conſequence to the Farmer, for there are ſtill many Crops abroad. We muſt however expect ſome Showers, but they ſeldom hold long, and are not general; or if we have Rains at this time, that hold three or four Days in one part of the Country, it will be dry in another part: ſo that if ſome Crops ſuffer by Wet, there are others which eſcape. But I think thoſe Farmers to blame, that have not by this time got in moſt of their Harveſt, for an early Harveſt depends upon early ſowing; and if our Harveſt comes forward, we have a better chance

chance for fair Weather, than if we ſow late.

Now your Walnuts are ripe, and ſhould be threſh'd off the Trees with long Poles. Theſe turn to good account in many places in *Surrey*, as well to be ſold for eating, as for making of Oil. This Month ſet ſome in by-places, with their green Shells about them, which will preſerve them, during the Winter, from the Mice and other Vermin. They will be up the Spring following, and ſhould never be tranſplanted.

Now you may pull up ſuch of your *Windſor* or broad Beans, as did not ripen in the preceding Month, and bind them in Bundles, letting them ſtand to dry before they are carry'd home. See the Directions in the preceding Month. Alſo cut and carry your Peaſe that are now ripe, as directed in the former Month.

We muſt now look after our Hops that have been dry'd on the Kiln, and if they begin to give, which you may find by putting your Hand into the Heap; and if then they feel moiſt and clammy when they are preſs'd, you may conclude the Fire is out of them, and they are fit to be put into the Bag.

Before

Before your Hops are fit to bag, you are to provide the Bags ready for them of coarſe Cloth, about three quarters wide, three Breadths wide, and three Yards three quarters long. Theſe Bags, when we are ready to fill them, muſt have their Mouths ſtrain'd open in a circular manner, which ſome do with Hoops, and then faſten the Edges on the top of a Sack to the Floor of a Room, where there is an Hole cut, ſo that the Body of the Sack may hang at its full length, and have a foot vacant room under the bottom, and have the like room on every ſide. This being well faſtned and ſecured, when your Hops are ready to bag, a Man muſt go into it, and put a Handful of the Hops which he is to bag into each of the Corners at the bottom of the Sack, which ſome one without ſide muſt tie very cloſe with Pack-thread. Theſe are to ſerve for Samples of the Hops when they are carry'd to Market; then pour in two or three Sieves full of Hops into the Bag, and let the Man tread them very well with Shoes without Heels; then add two or three Sieves more of Hops, and let him tread them well, ſtill repeating the ſame till the Sack is juſt full enough to admit of being ſew'd cloſe

cloſe up; but before the Bag is cloſed, tie a Handful of Hops in each of the upper Corners, as you did in the lower parts of the Bag. Such a Bag will hold about two hundred Weight of Hops, and ſhould be kept in a dry place.

We muſt yet be buſy in the Hop-Garden, for ſometimes the Hops are not ripe till this Month, or we cannot get Hands to gather our Hop-Gardens clean in the former Month: however, if we have a large Quantity of Hop-Ground, I have known it happen, that ſome have been gathering, while ſome have been drying, and others been bagging. I think it well worth the while of a Planter of Hops, if he plants a great Quantity, to build a Shed or two to gather his Hops in, leſt Rain ſhould happen, for Rain will ſpoil them; and beſides, the ſame Sheds may ſerve to keep his Poles in after the Hopping-time is over. 'Tis neceſſary, as ſoon as the Hops are gather'd, to ſtrip the Poles of the Bind or Vine, and lay the Poles in Parcels to be carry'd into the Sheds as ſoon as Conveniency will permit; but if there are no Sheds, ſtack them up, that is, ſet them up in Piles, ſo as to ſupport one another, and thatch their tops to keep them from Wet as much as poſſible; for the more they are kept

kept from Wet, the longer they will laſt. *N.B.* The Poles which are rotten at the Bottoms, may have their Bottoms now ſaw'd off, and new ſharpen'd, for Hops of two Years ſtanding; and as thoſe decay, let them again be ſaw'd and ſharpen'd for Hop-Plantations of the firſt Year; and after that, if they laſt ſo long, cut them for the Fire.

This Month is the Saffron Harveſt, and care muſt be taken to provide Hands, according as you have Quantity, for it muſt be gather'd ſoon in the Morning, or elſe the Saffron will ſhrink into the Ground. In the Saffron-Countries, Women and Children are generally employ'd to gather the Saffron, pulling up all the Flowers they ſee blown, and carrying the Flowers home in Baskets. They then pick the Saffron out of the Flowers in the Sun-ſhine, if there is any, to dry it a little, and then it is prepared for the Kiln. It is to be obſerv'd, that very wet Weather in the Bloom of Saffron, beats down the Flowers, and bruiſes and ſpoils the Saffron, which is the Style of the Flower, or that part in the middle, which is of an Orange-Colour: and when this happens, then the Saffron will be ſmall and weak. When our Saffron is gather'd, we are to take abundance of

care

care in drying it; for if we over-dry it, it will be kiln-burnt; and if we under-dry it, it will be apt to rot, and grow mouldy, and will not keep. However, when the Saffron Seaſon is wet, we may dry it more than in a dry Seaſon: But let the Seaſon be what it will, the Papers it is dry'd in are generally good, and are uſed inſtead of Saffron by many Apothecaries; thoſe Papers having imbibed many of the fine parts of the Saffron in the drying, afford a fine Tincture.

The Kiln upon which it is dry'd, is compoſed with very little Art, and is almoſt in all the poor Peoples Houſes in the Saffron Countries; but as I hope to encreaſe this valuable Commodity, and to be the means of cultivating it in other places than where it now is, I ſhall endeavour to deſcribe it.

The Kiln is much narrower at the bottom than at the top; that is, about a foot ſquare at the bottom, and two foot at the top, and about two foot high. This is made of Oak, framed together, and cover'd with Laths on the out-ſide, as well as lined with them. Upon theſe Laths within-ſide, is ſpread a ſtrong Mortar two Inches thick, and the out-ſide is cover'd with Lime and Hair;

Hair; but the bottom on the inside must be cover'd four or five Inches thick with the strong Mortar, to serve as an Hearth to lay the Fire on, leaving a hole on one side to put in the Charcoal Fire, and give it Air. Upon the top of this Kiln must be strain'd a Hair-Cloth as tight as possible, and nail'd very fast; because when we put on our Saffron between the Papers to dry, we must press it with a Weight of twenty-five or thirty Pounds in the drying of it. Keep the Fire as constant and gentle as possible, and as soon as it begins to smell pretty strong, turn the Papers, and set on the Weight again, till the other side of the Cake is well dry'd. The Paper you dry it in, must be white Paper; and in many places they will lay the Paper under and over six or seven Sheets thick, especially on the top, on purpose to get the Tincture of the Saffron; but this must be guarded against: and likewise they will put the outside Papers to fresh Saffron, on purpose to make them fully partake of its Tincture; but this weakens the Strength of the Saffron, as I have observ'd before, and the Papers sell well, which are the Dryers Perquisites. My Ingenious Friend, *Samuel Trowell* Esq; of the *Temple*, has a piece of Saffron planted in his Garden at *Poplar*,

*lar*, which he has dry'd in a particular way, *i. e.* by putting it into a Bladder, and keeping it for ſome time in a warm Pocket, which I have ſeen this Year, and is extraordinary good. There are others who dry it between thick Glaſſes, letting them lie in the Sun for ſome time, and that I have known to be very good: but theſe ways will not dry large quantities. One might enumerate many ways of drying Saffron, but there is only this Rule we ought to have before us; and that is, to dry it in ſuch a manner, that only the watry parts may be exhaled, and none of the fine parts: for which reaſon, if the Glaſs will bear the Fire of the Kilns I have mention'd, I judge that it will be much the beſt way.

In this Month ſome People chuſe to ſtore their Ponds with Fiſh; and provided they take only the young Fry of the ſame Year, it may do well enough, for they will thrive much better than larger Fiſh. See the Spring-Months for Directions. When you remove them from one place to another, let it be in the Mornings and Evenings.

Now carry Manure upon your Grounds which you deſign for Wheat, and lay it in heaps at proper diſtances, to be ſpread juſt before the time of Plowing; remembring

bring that the ſtiffer Manures are for the light Grounds, and the lighter Manures for the ſtiff Grounds.

It is now cuſtomary among the Cowmen about *London* to clean their Cow-yards, and ſpread the Cow-dung upon their Cow-paſture for Winter Service; and I find that it is of extraordinary uſe. It is no matter whether the Cow-dung be freſh or not, it ſoon dries by the Sun at this time of the Year, and makes the Graſs grow in an extraordinary manner.

If you have not pinion'd your Pheaſants or Partridges in the foregoing Month, you may yet do that work. The late *Eyes*, or Broods of Pheaſants, may more properly be now pinion'd than in the preceding Month; for that Operation muſt not be done till they are ſtrong. See how to do this Work in the former Month.

In this Month, about *London* they begin to take up the Potatoes, which muſt be done with a three-phang'd Fork, which will raiſe them up whole; but a Spade will cut through ſeveral of the Roots.

About this time make an end of ſelling ſuch Cattle, as you bought in the Spring; for they are now as well fed as you can expect them: and buy in freſh

Cattle,

Cattle, to fatten againſt *Chriſtmas* or the Spring.

In ſome places it is not yet too late to take Honey: See the Directions in the former Month. And be careful likewiſe to ſeparate your Honey from the Combs, and make your Wax into Cakes; which ſhould be done ſoon after you have taken it from the Hive. This is the beſt time of year to make Metheglin or ſtrong Mead, for it may be now done at little Charge; for tho' we preſs the Combs never ſo well, there will be ſtill ſo much Honey left, as might, by waſhing of the Combs, yield a good Quantity of ſweet Liquor, fit to be uſed in making Metheglin.

Now turn your Swine into the Woods, for the Maſt begins to ripen, and drop, the Acorns eſpecially. Alſo employ Women and Children to gather Maſt for feeding of Hogs at home, for it is a Food which will make the Fat of thoſe Creatures firm, and is the chief cauſe of the ſuperiour Goodneſs of the *Hampſhire* Bacon, and makes it preferable to that of other Countries: and ſo other Counties might produce as good Bacon, if the Swine were fed in the ſame manner, and had as many Woods as we find in *Hampſhire*. But it is very certain there

are now beſides this Food, abundance of Ground-Nuts and Truffles in the *Hampſhire* Woods, which perhaps may contribute to the feeding of Swine, who will ſoon find them, and eat them very greedily.

Now is a buſy Time among the Cyder-Makers: 'tis a very wholeſome Drink, and very ſerviceable, where a Farmer employs many Hands. In my monthly Works, I have deſcrib'd a Mill for the grinding of Apples, which will ſave ſeveral Buſhels of Apples in every Hogſhead. Let your Winter Fruits remain upon the Trees till the next Month; but ſuch as are now fit to gather, be ſure do that Work in a dry Day.

About the end of the Month, ſow Wheat in moiſt Lands, firſt taking care to make convenient Drains to carry off the Wet, if it ſhould happen in too great abundance. And to prevent the Wheat's becoming ſmutty, uſe the following Brine to ſteep your Seed-Wheat in, which was publickly recommended by the late Colonel *Plummer* of *Hertfordſhire*, and is of great uſe. Having choſen the Wheat you would ſow, waſh it well in a Tub, through three or four ſeveral Waters, ſtirring it with a large Stick with great force, skimming off all the

the light Wheat which ſwims on the top of the Water; and when you have thus clean'd your Wheat, put it in the following Liquor.

Put a ſufficient Quantity of Water in a large Tub that hath a Tap: to this put as much Salt, as when it is ſtirred about will make an Egg ſwim: then add as much more Salt as before, and ſtir it very well; after which, put two or three Pounds of Alum beaten very fine, and ſtir it about.

This muſt be uſed like the ordinary Brines, only the Wheat muſt ſteep thirty or forty Hours, for leſs ſignifies nothing; tho' the common Opinion is, that ſteeping ſo long, kills the Seed in the Wheat, but Experience teaches the contrary.

You muſt take your Wheat out the Night before you ſow it, and ſift ſome ſlack'd Lime on it, which ſerves only to make it dry enough to ſow. It is neceſſary to add ſome more Water to this Brine as it waſtes, with Salt proportionable to the Water, and about a Pound of Alum.

About the middle of this Month, ſow Rye on dry Ground, for it will not bear ſuch wet Land as Wheat will.

You may now draw or pull up your Horſe-Beans, if they are ripe, and tie the

Stalks in Bundles to dry, before they are carry'd home to be threſh'd.

If your Kidney-Beans are ripe, they may be gather'd, and being well dry'd may lie in the Cods to be threſh'd in the Spring for Seed, or at this time for boiling; they are frequently eaten abroad in this ſtate, and are very good Meat.

This is the moſt proper time of the Year to enter upon a new Farm; for now a Farmer has both the ſowing Seaſons before him, to do what he thinks beſt with his Ground.

Now the firſt-ſown Turnips are fit to draw for the Markets, or for the Cattle.

Repair the Fences about your Corn-Grounds; and you may yet bring ſuch Fuel or Timber as you ſhall want in the Winter, before the Ways grow bad.

You may now cut Woad for the laſt time this Year.

You muſt now cut your Oats that were late ſown, for we muſt ſoon expect bad Weather; and alſo neglect not to get in your lateſt ſown Buck-Wheat, and finiſh your Harveſt, if poſſible. But tho' one may give a good general gueſs at the Weather, yet I would adviſe every Farmer to ſupply himſelf with ſuch Inſtruments as may particularly inform him what Weather will happen; as the Barometer,

meter, Hygrometer, *&c.* which will foretell Rain, Froſt, Thaws, Heat, dry Weather, *&c.* eſpecially thoſe made by Mr. *John Fowler*, Mathematical Inſtrument-Maker in *Swithen's-Alley* near the *Royal-Exchange*, *London*, who prepares them with the greateſt Exactitude and Truth; ſo that one may judge by them of the Weather ſome Days before it will happen, and ſo haſten or delay the cutting or ſowing of Crops.

Now gather your lateſt Hemp, if the Seed be ripe, and threſh the Seed out immediately.

In ſome cold Places, I have known the Rape and Cole-Seed not ripe till this time. It muſt be gather'd as before directed, and turns to good account for making of Oil; and the Cakes afterwards are helpful to the Land, being broken to pieces and ſow'd upon it.

Still fold Sheep upon your Fallows, if you have any, and ſuch Grounds as you deſign to ſow Wheat upon.

Now provide a good Quantity of Malt againſt the next Month, which is a capital brewing Month.

# *OCTOBER.*

THIS Month is generally dry, and the Days, though they are ſhort, are for the moſt part moderately warm, but the Evenings froſty; and I count this the beſt travelling Month in the whole Year: for beſides what I have obſerv'd already of this Month, I may add, that the Roads are commonly very good, they not yet having been ſpoiled by too much Wet, and therefore not much worn.

In this Month ſome chuſe to plant their Hops rather than at the beginning of the Year, the Difference only will be between one and the other, that thoſe planted in the Spring, if the Spring ſhould prove very dry, may grow weak, becauſe they may want Showers to ſettle

tle the Earth cloſe about their Roots: And to plant in this Month, we may be ſure, that our new Plantation will have time enough, before they begin to ſhoot, to fix their Roots: but then, if the Land that we now plant them in ſhould be much troubled with Waters, many of them may rot perhaps, or run wild or barren the following Year. The Spring-planting however, if we water to the purpoſe, is a ſure way; but the Watering ought to be at leaſt ſix or eight Gallons to every Hill, ſo as to make the Earth about the Plants a kind of Mud. But if you plant this Month, and are out of the reach of Floods, as you ought always to be in your Hop-Garden, becauſe the Hop loves a dry Soil, then take the following Method: Chuſe a piece of Ground, which is freſh and of a light nature, and ſomewhat deep in Staple or Surface; and if it ſo happens, that there is a Loam under the Surface, it is ſtill the better. This Ground ſhould be well ſhelter'd on the North and Weſt Sides againſt Storms; for whatever Winds may blow from the Eaſt or South, cannot hurt them; for the blighting Eaſterly Winds come in the Spring before the Hop is capable of being hurt, and the South Winds have yet never been hurt-

ful to Plants, that I have heard of; but the North is a rude Wind, and the Weſt generally tempeſtuous, and moſt commonly blows in Storms, when the Hop may ſuffer the moſt. And that the two Sides I mention of an Hop-ground, ſhould be open, is neceſſary, beſides the Reaſons I have given, becauſe the opening to the Morning Sun corrects and takes off the Dews betimes, which prevents the Mill-dew, or Honey-dew: and in the next place, the South Sun contributes to the digeſting the Juices in the Plants, which is the Occaſion of Fruit in ſuch Vegetables, as bring their Fruit upon the Shoots or Branches of the ſame Year; and beſides, the advantage of this Share of Sun, will ſooner ripen the Fruit. When I give this Direction, I do not ſpeak of ſmall Hop-grounds of a Rood, or ſuch a Meaſure, but of an Acre, or of ſeveral Acres; for to a ſmall Hop ground the leaſt ſhade of Trees will keep the Air too cloſe, and occaſion the Hops next them to mildew, and eſpecially if they have any drip into the Hop-garden; but in natural Situations by the ſides of Hills, ſmall Hop-grounds may do well. When the Ground is appointed, plow it, and mark it out for the Hop-hills, whoſe Centres muſt be ſeven Foot aſunder, and when they

they are made with a Spade ſo as to ſtand in rows in the Quincunx Order, and only compoſed of a freſh light Soil, plant your Hop-plants each about a Foot in length, and three Buds upon each Sett; Plant ſix on one Hill with a Dibble or Setting-Stick, contriving to have one Plant upon the middle of each Hill, and the tops of the Plants level with the Surface of the Earth upon the Hills; and then cover every Hill two or three Inches with richer Mould, if you can get it, or elſe ſome of the ſame finely ſifted. But firſt ſee that the new Plants are well ſettled, either by preſſing the Earth cloſe about them, or watering them as above directed; however, they muſt now have ſome Water at planting. If we plant them in this Month, we may the Spring following plant Beans in the Alleys between the Hills; or if it is more convenient to plant in *March*, you may do the ſame in your new Hop-garden; for the new-planted Hops will not yield any great Shade the firſt Year. In this Month dreſs your old Hop-grounds, that is, ſuch as you have lately gather'd; you muſt now cut the Bind within an Inch or two of the top of the Hill, and then fling upon each Hill ſome fine Earth about three Inches thick;

but

but let it be thoroughly dry, and very light and rich.

If the Roads are ſtill good, make an end of bringing home ſuch Things as may be wanting in your Farm in the Winter, and when your Teams go to the Markets, bring home ſuch Manures as you can get. Alſo lay Straw in ſuch Ways as are frequented, that it may rot and ſerve to help the ſtiff Lands.

This is a capital Month for brewing, the Air being now temperate for the working or fermenting of Drink, therefore that Work ſhould not be neglected.

You may yet ſow Wheat, according to the Directions given in the preceding Month, and your Spurry will be good Fodder.

Now take up your full-grown Carrots ſown in the Spring, and after having cut their tops cloſe to the Root, let them dry three or four days, and lay them up in dry Sand, or dry Leaves of Trees, till you carry them to the Markets.

Your Potatoes are now very good, and fit for the Markets; ſee how to take them up in the foregoing Month.

Have regard to the Fences of your Wheat-fields, for while the Wheat is tender, Cattle ſhould not come upon it.

Continue ſtill to make Cyder, and gather your Winter-Fruits for keeping in dry Weather, taking care that your Fruiteries have Air, and that no bruiſed Fruits are laid up with the reſt; for thoſe which are bruiſed, will preſently rot and infect the reſt.

About the beginning of the Month is yet a time for gathering of Saffron, but remember that it muſt be gather'd in the Morning before the Sun is hot upon it; for elſe the Piſtillum, which is that part which only makes the Saffron, will ſhrink above a third part.

The Rabbits in your artificial Warren muſt now begin to be reſtrain'd from their green Meat.

Continue to feed your Fiſh, as directed in the former Months; for beſides the pleaſure of having them tame, and being at your command when they are wanted for the Table, they will thrive extremely by ſuch Feed.

Towards the end of the Month, if there have been Rains, take up your Liquorice which has ſtood three Years, which will, if it has been taken good care of, produce you a very valuable Crop; and, at the ſame time, examine your young Crops of Liquorice, and clear them from Weeds: alſo take a view of your

your Madder, and other ſtanding Crops, and take care that no Weeds annoy them.

Cut up the Kidney-Beans which are now ripe, and after drying them well, threſh them immediately; but if the Weather is wet, and likely to hold ſo, pick off the Cods, and dry them in the Shed, or in the Houſe, and then threſh them, and dry the Beans. Theſe ſell well at *Bear-Key*; the great Market at *London* for great Seeds.

You may now plant Trees in your Hedge-rows, if the Ground is light and dry, or elſe the Spring is the beſt.

Separate thoſe Lambs which you deſign to keep from their Dams.

You may now buy in Stocks of Bees, but do not buy from too many places, leſt your Apiary be diſturb'd by Wars.

Collect ſtill Acorns and Maſt for home Food for your Hogs, and keep them ſtill in the Woods.

Turn and air your Corn and Pulſe in the Grainary.

Now begin to kill Swine for Bacon and pickled Pork.

And 'tis now a good Seaſon to dry Beef, ſuch as is call'd Hung-Beef, for now Fires are pretty conſtantly kept: And the Seaſon is temperate enough for Fleſh to take Salt.

# *NOVEMBER.*

I Have obſerv'd, that this Month has been generally the wetteſt Month in the whole Year; the Days are very ſhort, and we have very little Sun; the Earth too ſeems to be now at reſt, in compariſon of what it is in the other Months, and therefore I can by no means adviſe the ſowing of any Corn at this Seaſon; for if it does come up, it will be ſubject to many Hazards, as Wet, and Blights, and Froſt, before it can gain any Strength. But as for Beans and Peaſe, ſuch as are of the *Spaniſh*, *Portugal*, or Hotſpur Kinds, we may ſet and ſow ſome the firſt Week, in order to come early in the Spring: for when theſe come up, they will remain pretty ſhort till the open Weather begins

begins to come in, and be in leſs danger of being pinch'd by the Winds, than thoſe that were ſown in *October*; however, it is commonly practiſed to earth up with an Hough ſuch of our Beans or Peaſe as are grown in this Month above four Inches, for it helps to preſerve their Shanks or Stalks from turning black.

We ſtill continue to take up Potatoes with a Prong, or three-fang'd Fork, to avoid wounding the Roots.

This Month is alſo a very good time to take up our full-grown Liquorice, I mean ſuch as has ſtood three Years: 'tis a rich Crop, if it has been well taken care of.

The full-grown Rabbits in your artificial Warren, are now in perfection, eſpecially thoſe that were gelt, which will be extremely large, and their Skins of good Value, for this Month the Skins are what are call'd whole Skins; and the Fur of the wild grey ſort, is good for the Hat-Makers, and the Skins of thoſe call'd Silver-hair'd Rabbits are now fit for dreſſing, to be exported with their Fur on: They are at the firſt hand about a Guinea *per* Dozen.

This is a good Seaſon for making of Bacon and pickled Pork. Alſo put up Swine to fatten: And 'tis alſo a proper time

time to ſmoak and dry Beef, which will keep a long time.

You may ſell off ſuch Hogs and Poultry as are fit for the Markets, for they will now be in pretty good caſe, thro' the help of the Woods and the Barn-door.

Your Fiſh are now of good Value in the *London* Markets, as indeed they are in moſt Months in the Year, provided we do not take any that have juſt ſpawned. Continue ſtill to feed your Ponds.

Carry Straw and ſuch like into Ways and wet Places to rot, which will help your ſtiff Grounds.

The Tasker is now very buſy in the Barn in threſhing of all ſorts of Corn; but let him not now threſh any Store to lay up in the Grainary; but all ſhould go to Market, for Grain will not keep well in damp Weather. However, ſuch Corn or Pulſe as we keep by us ready threſh'd, ſhould be often turn'd, and now and then ſifted, to keep it from growing foiſty.

You may now ſpread your Ant-Hills in your Meadows, that the Froſts may deſtroy the Ants.

Now mend your Fences about the Corn-Grounds. At this Seaſon you muſt take care to keep your Bees warm, and feed

feed your weak Stocks; you may thatch the common Hives with Straw, and may put ſome dry Straw between, and upon your Box-Hives in the Apiary.

Now you begin to manufacture your Hemp and Flax, and the Farmer's principal Buſineſs is to attend the Markets.

You may now cut Coppice or Spring-Wood, for Faggots, Bavins, or other Uſes.

Set Traps to deſtroy Vermin, and beware of Foxes, who will begin to be very buſy about your Poultry.

Cut Drains to carry off the ſtanding Waters in your Corn-Fields, if that was not ſufficiently taken care of before the Corn was ſown; and ſee that all Drains are now open and free, for fear of Floods.

Feed your Dove-Cot Pidgeons, for there is little Food for them abroad.

*De-*

# *DECEMBER.*

THIS Month is generally attended with hard Frosts, which will mellow such Lands as have been lately turn'd up, or lie fallow.

You may now turn up those Lay-stalls or Heaps of Manure, which you design for the Lands that are to be sown in the Spring; and in frosty Weather you may carry them upon your Land.

Now if the Weather be frosty, carry such Manure upon your Meadow-Ground as is necessary, and spread it over them.

Strew Ashes and Soot upon such places in your Grass-Grounds, as are mossy.

Revise your Fences, and make up Gaps to keep Cattle out of your Corn-Grounds.

Break Holes every day in the Ice of your Fish-Ponds, to give Air to your

Fiſh, and lay ſome Peaſe-haulm in thoſe Holes to keep them from freezing.

Continue to deſtroy Vermin, eſpecially the *Mole* or *Want*, which now breeds plentifully, and may be found by her Neſt, which is an Hill made up of Leaves, Straw, Moſs, and Earth, much larger than the common Mole-Hills, and generally may be found in warm dry places.

Put Swine up to fat, and kill ſuch as you deſign for Bacon, or pickled Pork.

And ſend ſuch Swine as are fit for Pork to the Markets.

There are now Turnips for your Sheep, and fodder ſuch Sheep as are upon the Commons with freſh Hay.

Now give Grains, Turnips, or Clover, or Saintfoine Hay to your Cows, mixing the latter with Barley-ſtraw, or give your Cows the Haulm of Buck-Wheat and Peaſe-ſtraw: theſe will make them full of Milk.

Still continue to deſtroy Ant-Hills, by ſpreading them on the Ground.

Now put up Poultry to fatten againſt *Chriſtmas*, for they ſell well at that time.

Houſe your old Cattle, and ſend the beſt of thoſe that were bought in at *Michaelmas* to Market.

Still look after your Drains, and ſuffer no Water to ſtand upon your Corn.

See

See that no Hares get into your Saffron-Grounds, for they are very fond of feeding upon the green Leaves of it; and if thoſe are bruiſed or hurt, it will weaken the Saffron Roots, and ſpoil the Crop for the next Year. And you may eſpecially expect that your Saffron will now be attack'd by the Hares, becauſe they have little ſhare of green Food; therefore ſee that the Fence of Hurdles, which encompaſſes your Saffron-Grounds, be in good order.

Still you may cut Coppice and Spring-Woods, and ſome ſorts of Timber, but remember in the fall of Woods, to leave a convenient Number of Standils; and in the cutting of Coppice or Springs, that you cut no Oak that meaſures nine Inches in Girt three Foot from the Root, for that is accounted Timber, and is never reckoned as Under-wood.

Still feed weak Stocks of Bees.

Now is the time for the Farmer to look over all his Inſtruments of Husbandry, and put them all in repair; for if the next Month happens to prove fair and open, as it has been lately, he will be troubled to get the Inſtruments in order, which he will then want to uſe.

Feed now your Dove-Cot Pidgeons, for they have no Food abroad.

Parſnips

Parſnips may now be taken out of the Ground for ſale; and there are now Turnips, Carrots, and Potatoes for the Markets; and about the end, Poultry of all ſorts, Rabbits, and all ſorts of Cattle for the Butcher: Beſides which, there is Grain of every kind, and Fodder of all ſorts, which bring the induſtrious Farmer Gold for the reward of his Labour.

And I now leave him to conclude the Year in Hoſpitality and harmleſs Mirth, and to begin the New-Year with Courage and Conduct, that the End may be crown'd with Riches.

*FINIS.*